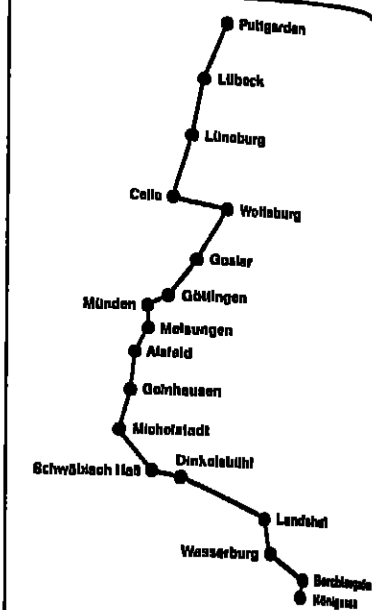
Routes to tour in Germany

The German Holiday Route – from the Alps to the Baltic



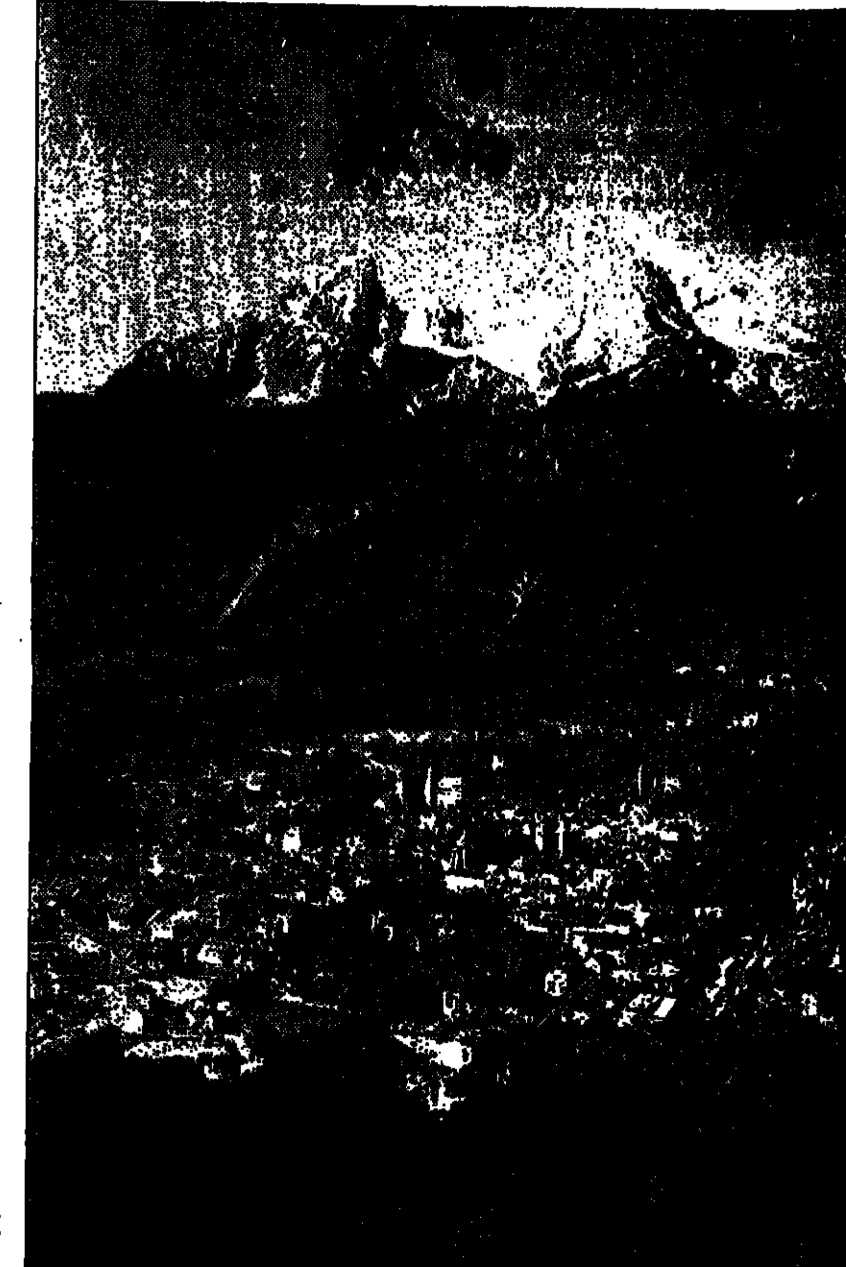
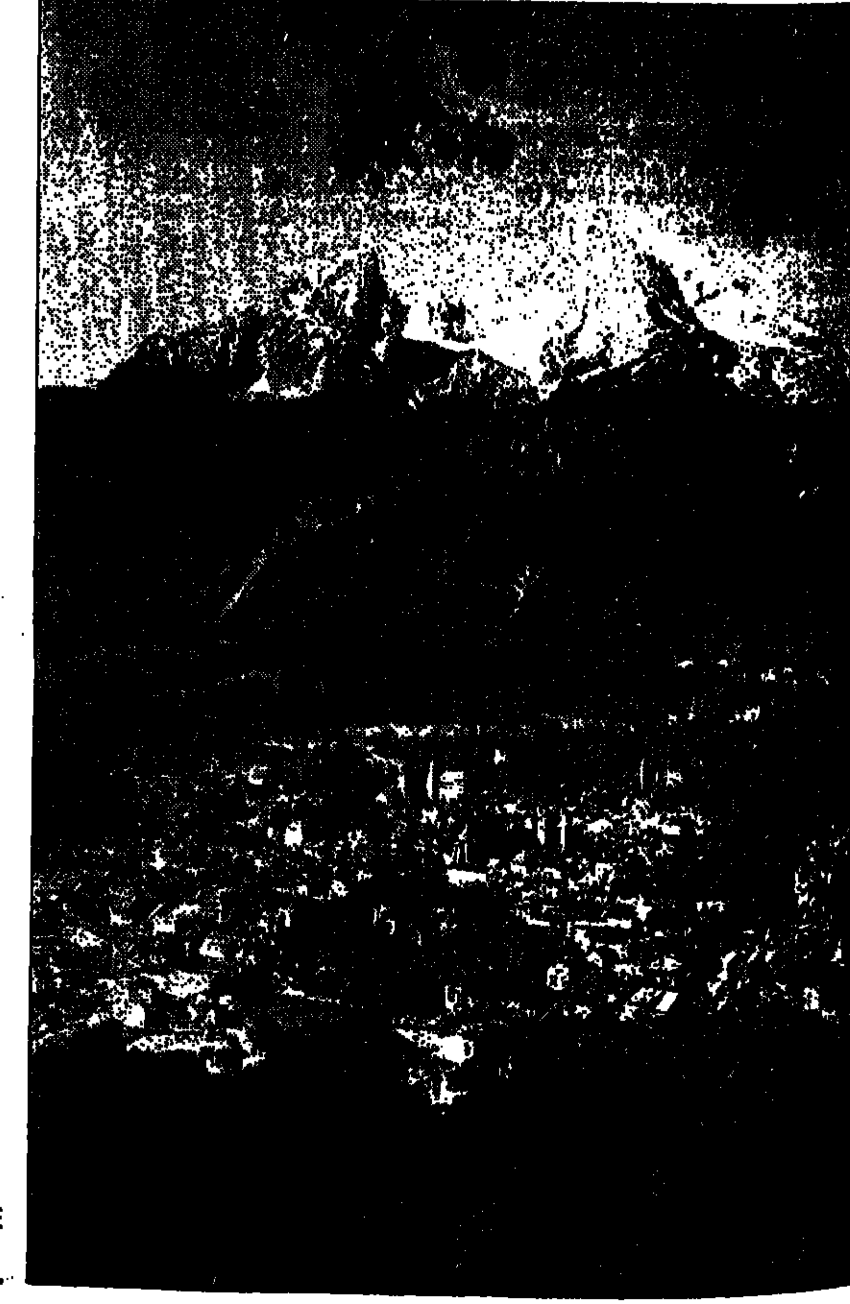


German roads will get you there, and if you plan to see as much as you can, why not travel the length of the country? From the Alpine foothills in the south via the typical Mittelgebirge range to the plains of the north, you will pass through the most varied landscapes. And so you needn't take pot luck in deciding on a route, we recommend the German Holiday Route from the Alps to the Baltic.

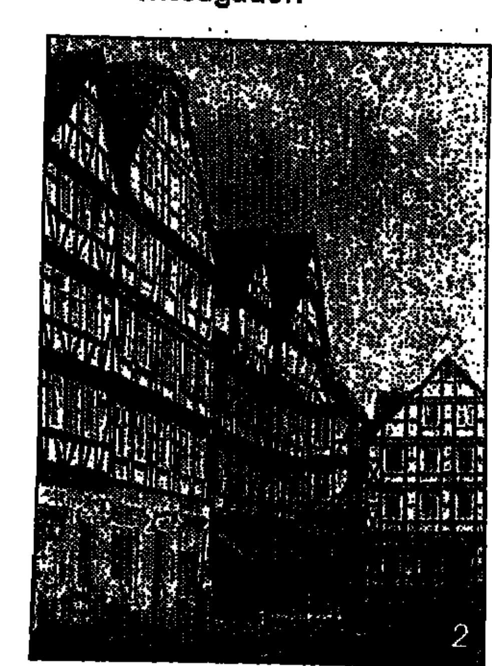
Start in the south with Berchtesgaden and its bob run. Maybe you have already heard tell of Landshut, a mediaeval Bavarian town with the world's largest brick-and-mortar tower. Or of Erbach in the Odenwald, with its castle and the Ivory Museum. Or of Alsfeld with its half-timbered houses, the Harz mountain towns or the 1,000-year-old-Hanseatic port of Lübeck.

Visit Germany and let the Holiday Route be your guide – from the Alps to the Baltic.



1 Lübeck
2 Melsungen
3 Schwäbisch Hall
4 Berchtesgaden



The German Tribune

…burg, 26 September 1982
…-first Year - No. 1053 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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Bonn coalition ends as ministers resign

…Free Democrats have resigned from …Bonn coalition leaving the Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, in charge of a minority government. The end came when …four FDP ministers in the Cabinet, …-Dietrich Genscher (Foreign Affairs), Count Otto Lambsdorff (Economic Affairs), Gerhart Baum (Interior) …Josef Ertle (Agriculture) handed in …notices. This now means that the …servative forces in the Bundestag …now win the vote of no-confidence …st Chancellor Schmidt by teaming …with the 53 FDP MPs on 1 October. …eral elections have been set for 6 …ch.

…he Federal Republic of Germany is …on the brink of a third major epoch …in history.

…he first lasted over 20 years, during …ch the Christian Democrats held …ay in Bonn under Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, Ludwig Erhard and Kurt …Kiesinger.

…he second, lasting nearly 13 years, …as an era of Social Democratic rule …er Chancellor Willy Brandt and …mut Schmidt.

…ortunes now look like being reversed. The signs are that the Christian Democrats will return to power now the …coalition of Social and Free Democrats has collapsed.

…he first change was not the catastro… …many people on the right of the …ical spectrum felt sure it was going …be.

…he present change will not be the …disaster many Social Democrats …trade unionists feel sure it is going …either.

…would have been politically un…

IN THIS ISSUE

…y if the Christian Democrats in …many had retained power without …ption, as they have done in Italy.

…s time round the Social Democ… …must not behave as though the end …the world was nigh merely becau… …y are unable to govern the country …decades, as their counterparts in …en were able to do.

…change of government is part and …of democracy, and we have had …few, not too many, in the first 33 years of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Twice in its history there has been a major political take-off, and on both occasions it was well worth while.

Immediately on being elected Konrad Adenauer in 1949 set about, despite his advanced age, tackling two major tasks with enormous verve.

They were the post-war reconstruction of Germany and its close integration in the West.

Twenty years later the Social Democrats under Willy Brandt tackled a fresh set of tasks with equal enthusiasm: coming to terms with the East and setting up a welfare state.

In both periods there were instances of onesidedness and exaggeration. It is part of the way a democratic change of government works to remedy such errors later.

The legacy a Christian Democratic-led Bonn government now looks likely to inherit from the SPD-FDP coalition is tougher than what the Social Democrats took over in 1969.

In those days the economy was still in full swing after a relatively harmless recession in the second half of the 60s. Unemployment was no problem; neither was the national debt.

Now, government finances are weighed down by enormous accrued debts, unemployment has reached levels last seen in the early 50s and the economy is gasping for breath.

Above all, these problems are only partially home-grown. For the most part the country is groaning under the burden of worldwide economic paralysis about which even a new Bonn government can do very little, and certainly nothing fundamental.

There is a note of tragedy in that a Chancellor whom only root-and-branch opponents can accuse of lacking economic and political understanding is likely to be replaced in such a situation by a new Chancellor whom even his best friends would not claim to have the same qualities.

It is only fair to say that Helmut Schmidt has foundered not on his own inability but on that of the parties on which he must rely for parliamentary support.

Blame lies for the most part with the Social Democrats, who in a strange flight of arrogance felt able to undermine their authority to govern and capacity for cooperation with a coalition partner by in-fighting and dissension.

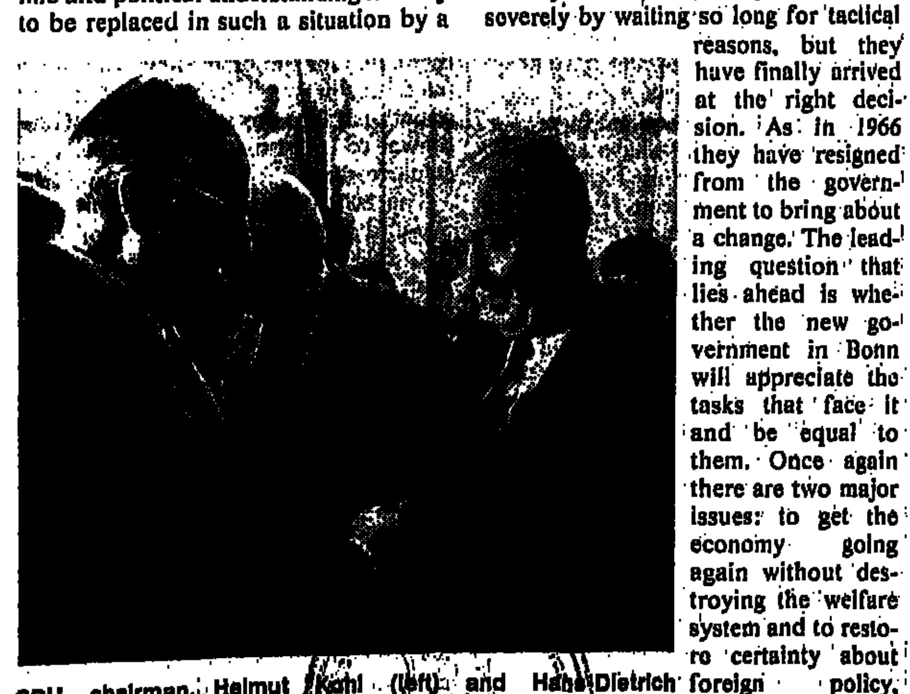
But that is how power changes hands in a democracy, and there is no cause to complain that the change has again been brought about by the smallest party in the Bundestag, Hans-Dietrich Genscher's Free Democrats.

As long as a clear two-party system is not brought into being by, say, changes in the electoral law, a small party of this kind is bound to play a key rôle.

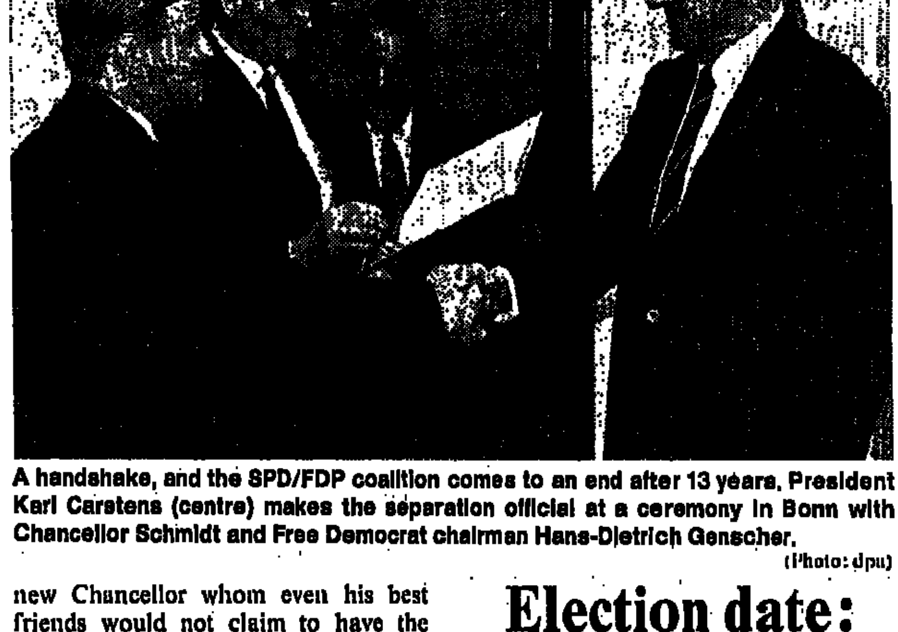
In the current party-political system the Free Democrats are in a position to decide who governs in Bonn, or at least have so far been able to do so.

They have tested our patience most severely by waiting so long for tactical reasons, but they have finally arrived at the right decision. As in 1966 they have resigned from the government to bring about a change. The leading question that lies ahead is whether the new government in Bonn will appreciate the tasks that face it and be equal to them. Once again there are two major issues: to get the economy going again without destroying the welfare system and to restore certainty about foreign policy,

Continued on page 2



CDU chairman Helmut Kohl (left) and Hans-Dietrich Genscher . . . coalition talks (Photo: Sven Simon)



A handshake, and the SPD/FDP coalition comes to an end after 13 years. President Karl Carstens (centre) makes the separation official at a ceremony in Bonn with Chancellor Schmidt and Free Democrat chairman Hans-Dietrich Genscher. (Photo: dpa)

Election date: crucial point of talks

Federal elections are to be held on 6 March next year. This was one of the major points resolved in talks between the conservative Opposition and the Free Democrats.

There were sharp differences of opinion: the CSU leader and Bavarian Premier, Franz Josef Strauss, wanted to go to the polls as soon as possible, preferably as soon as the no-confidence vote in the Bundestag is over.

Herr Strauss has little sympathy with the Free Democrats. He is confident the CDU/CSU would get an absolute majority, in which case it could ditch the FDP.

But the Shadow Chancellor and CDU leader, Helmut Kohl, wants to keep the Free Democrats, regardless of elections.

He needs them as a counter to Herr Strauss. If the conservatives ruled alone, his fear is that it would be Strauss who would determine policy.

The Free Democrats wanted to delay elections to muster support, and Kohl agreed.

The danger of such a late election is that Kohl may be forced to go into it on a platform of unpopular measures.

Not for nothing does Gerhard Stoltenberg, the CDU Premier of Schleswig-Holstein, favour swift decisions. He is thinking in terms of the budget he would have to balance as Finance Minister.

Decisions will need to be taken in time to come into effect in the New Year.

So agreement may be reached fairly fast on a coalition programme and on Cabinet posts. The only controversial top appointment is the Interior portfolio for Friedrich Zimmermann of the CSU.

Achim Melchers

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 20 September 1982)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Playing the China card: the questions behind it

Leading China-watchers from all over the world met in Saarbrücken for a conference hosted by Professor Jürgen Domes of Saarbrücken University. It was also sponsored by research units at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, and the Asia and the World Institute in Taipeh.

Is China going to turn its back on the West again? Could there be a rapprochement between Peking and Moscow?

These were two of the questions raised in Saarbrücken where 42 China-watchers from 10 countries met on the eve of the Chinese Party congress in Peking.

The debate was topical because of Chinese criticism of the United States in recent months, feelers between Russia and China, and the clash over arms supplies to Taiwan.

Robert A. Scalapino of Berkeley, California, has for many years been a member of the extended team of US Presidential advisers on Far Eastern affairs. He has seldom missed a Congressional hearing on the subject.

He recalled in Saarbrücken that there had long been a debate in the US on whether China was a great power at all, or at least a major factor in the international play of forces.

The issues raised included whether Washington ought to establish strategic ties with Peking and whether America had grounds for fearing it might "lose" China.

Scalapino gave short shrift to the new historical myth that Washington had missed in the late 40s its opportunity of persuading the Chinese Communists not to join forces with Moscow.

President Nixon and Dr Kissinger had made contact with Peking to facilitate the withdrawal from Vietnam, to contribute toward stability in Asia, to have a better starting point for negotiations with Moscow and to ensure that the Sino-Soviet alliance was not reactivated.

Since the Carter administration a strategic link had been advocated on the ground that it was the only way to counteract growing Soviet expansionism. If America and China were to join forces they could exert pressure on Russia.

Critics objected that relations with the Soviet Union would be subjected to unnecessary strain and that China would do no more to contain the Soviet threat than it was already doing in its own interest.

America must also pay heed to its allies in Asia. They were mainly afraid of an increase in Chinese military strength that might not threaten Moscow but would be a threat to China's Asian neighbours.

The policy of the Reagan administration, he said, had now led to a weakening of the US position. Washington had previously taken a middle-of-the-road line and been canvassed for support by both Moscow and Peking.

By opting for a clash with the Soviet Union, America had abandoned this middle-of-the-road position and there were now panic-stricken fears it might forfeit the China card.

This fear had been exploited by Peking to exert pressure on Washington over Taiwan.

Chalmers Johnson, of Berkeley, and June Dreyer-Teufel, of Miami, Florida, confirmed that the US decision largely to give in, as clearly evidenced by the communique, was not the handiwork of State Department doves.

It bore the hallmark of the Pentagon, and even more so that of President Reagan's White House advisers.

The "loss" of Peking would have cost the US administration dearly on the home front, Chalmers Johnson noted, pointing out the miscalculation Dr Kissinger had made.

He had sought to make use of the Sino-Soviet conflict by cabinet diplomacy, but the rapprochement with China had fired the imagination of the American public.

China so fascinated the US public that the American government had found itself a captive of its own policy.

A historic review showed how often Peking had switched course in foreign policy. It might be fine-spun tactics, said Lucian W. Pye of Massachusetts; it might also be a matter of clumsy, inexplicable mistakes.

Why had Peking made such play with the Taiwan issue? Was a power struggle in progress? Was the aim, as Wang Chi-wu of Taipeh suspected, to divert attention from domestic difficulties?

Would Teng's position have been in jeopardy if Washington had not climbed down? Or were fears of this kind merely subtlely suggested by Peking?

Taiwan is unquestionably a genuine problem for the Communists. The mere existence of the prosperous island is a thorn in their flesh.

There is also the generation problem. This may well be the last opportunity of coming to terms with Kuomintang rivals of yesteryear.

Peking, it was suggested, was un to be given a hearing by the young neration, and certainly not by the wanese themselves.

Han Lih-wu of Taipeh agreed Scalapino that Mr Reagan had the ball rolling with his Preside election campaign promises.

Peking was bound to fear that Ar ca might upgrade its ties with Ta So it had brought pressure to bea Washington.

This policy of threatening the US successful. Peking saw through A ca's weakness and was able to pre Mr Reagan into making more and concessions.

In the process, said Parris Chan Pennsylvania, China played its Rus card.

But Peking had no intention of a doning its opening to the West. would have had stupendous econ consequences, Professor Kraus of chum pointed out.

China's security interests likewis led out a break with the West. threat posed by the Soviet Union existed, when all was said and done.

The need for security had promp Mao to try and talk with the United tes. Glaubitz, of Munich, drew atte to the link between the Ussuri inci and the Soviet invasion of Czechoslo kia in 1968.

Scalapino conceded that Peking no longer afraid of a direct Russian tack. A relaxation of tension in the Moscow was possible and would p de room to manoeuvre in the Washington.

It was widely agreed in Saarbrü that in the medium term Peking be expected to pursue the follo course in foreign policy:

- Strategic ties with the West com ned with political detachment tow Washington and propaganda for Third World.
- Continuation of the opening to West in the economic sector.
- A slight relaxation of tension in lations with Moscow.

Siegfried Thielbe

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Ze für Deutschland, 10 September 1

Continued from page 1

which has come to look shady in the light of deviationist trends in the SPD.

The second task will be easier to perform than the first.

In economic and social affairs the SPD-FDP coalition was a kind of social contract between trade unions and employers. As long as the two parties were able to reach agreement on compromises social tension could be relied on not to get out of hand.

Now the coalition has broken up this social contract has gone with it for the time being, with the critical result that the trade unions will tend to be as bluntly opposed to the new government in Bonn as they are to the employers.

This is the main reason why it would be so dangerous for the probable partners in a new coalition, the Christian and Free Democrats, to appear to drag their feet on fresh elections.

It would be particularly dangerous for the Free Democrats, as only incontrovertible proof that voters are in favour of political change will put a damper on trade union tendencies to seek confrontation.

It is essential for the country's wellbeing that a social divide does not arise that Communists and other extremists would dearly like to capitalise on.

Konrad Adenauer managed to avert such a divide in the great leap forward to the free market economy, and the Christian Democrats would do well not to forget the lesson.

The responsibility to be assumed by the sixth Bonn Chancellor will be heavy. Helmut Kohl, the CDU leader, will not be able to bear it alone, always assuming he is elected.

In the country's interest one must wish him a strong and united cabinet who will tackle the issues farsightedly and with the same energy as their predecessors in 1949 and 1969.

There is no occasion for premature praise. We will see soon enough whether the Christian Democrats have gained enough energy and new ideas in 13 years in opposition to be equal to the task.

Wolfgang Wagner

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 September 1982)

Responsibility for massacre in Beirut

Those partly to blame and indirectly responsible for the massacre of Palestinian civilians in Beirut are being sought, rather than those who actually squeezed the triggers.

This seems to be the right since the bloodshed was obviously intended as retaliation for the murder of Lebanese President-elect Beshir Gemayel.

Given conditions in Lebanon, this explanation is self-evident. But who in the inferno that is Beirut would have been able to prevent this tragedy.

Who ought to have ensured there was a cooling-off period, to have appreciated who was out for whose blood?

There are good reasons for looking first in Israel's direction. It exercises military power between Israel's northern border and Beirut and thus shares responsibility.

Israel is partly responsible for the wild desire for bloodshed felt by Lebanese who have suffered for years at the hands of the PLO and were waiting to get their own back.

The Israeli government in Jerusalem and field commanders in Lebanon must have realised that the night of long knives was at hand and ought to have taken suitable precautions.

Israel is naturally only partly to blame but Mr Begin must realise that his government was bound to be allocated its share of the guilt all over the world.

But it bears neither all nor most of the blame for the bloodshed. The most fateful factor was that the role of the international force to supervise the withdrawal of Palestinians under arms was so narrowly defined.

The 800 American, 800 French and 500-odd Italian troops, a force of well over 2,000 men, merely took care to ensure, arguably too much care, that PLO forces withdrew from Beirut.

Yasser Arafat's men were well and truly beaten, deservedly so, and the international force supervised their departure on board fine ships to the accompaniment of worldwide TV coverage.

It failed to make sure that Palestinians who were much more deserving of sympathy and protection, the unarmed Palestinians, were safe.

Governments ordered the US, French and Italian troops home without delay, even sooner than agreed.

The common motive of the Wes governments concerned, governm responsible for a joint failure, was t deplorable fear of being decried as p cemen, imperialists or colonialists.

These were accusations that m well have been made by sympath with the PLO or by news agencies the Communist states.

But there are situations in wh nothing is more badly needed tha stout-hearted police officer who ward off danger to the helpless.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Ze für Deutschland, 20 September 1

The German Tribune

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HOME AFFAIRS

What happened en route to the coalition break-up

he Bonn coalition stopped functioning a week before the end came. that was not known publicly.

he beginning of the end was when Chancellor made his state of the naspeech in the Bundestag and called the Free Democrats to state clearly ther they wanted to stay in the coa-

t the chairman of the FDP and de Chancellor, Hans-Dietrich Gens refused to commit himself.

t his very evasion was an answer in . Genscher wanted a change, but just then, and under no circumstandid he want it at the price of having dmit that the FDP had to be saved extinction.

he other event on the same day that to the suspension of government t was when Economic Affairs Mi r Count Lambsdorff presented Chancellor with a paper sharply adicting the agreed SPD-FDP fispolicy. SPD Chairman Willy Brandt d on Lambsdorff to resign.

thers demanded that he be fired ight. And the Chancellor said of his minister that he knew nothing about economics.

The Chancellor had put a sudden end to the ailing coalition. He did so by making a public statement and without referring to any specific instrument provided by the Constitution.

Since Helmut Schmidt knew that the opposition was planning to topple him at the end of November, he had no choice but to seize the initiative and put an end to the spectacle of a coalition in the process of disintegration.

This could only be done by clearly stating that the coalition was at an end, that he no longer had a majority behind him and that he therefore wanted new elections.

CDU/CSU politicians have often enough said that they consider new elections the cleanest solution. They also stand an excellent chance at the moment of emerging as the winners.

Schmidt, on the other hand, knows that the SPD cannot count on many votes at the moment — neither in the state elections in Hesse this month nor in a national poll.

The fact that he nevertheless agrees with SPD Chairman Willy Brandt that elections should be held now is due to the realisation that the SPD must close ranks again in the opposition.

Even at the cost of being stripped of power, there is growing approval among SPD ranks in Bonn of a change of roles if the voters want it.

The CDU/CSU will have to state clearly whether they think they must go so far in coddling the future coalition partner FDP as to reject new national elections at this stage.

The CDU/CSU and the SPD have some common interest in a pre-national elections phase: to ensure that the FDP is not voted into the Bundestag.

To be consistent, the Chancellor would have to drop the reasons he gave for new elections in the Bundestag debate on 9 September. He said that new elections should be held so that the CDU/CSU and FDP MPs who want a new Chancellor should have a mandate from the people to elect one.

Schmidt's demand was bound to make a new coalition close ranks. He ignored the fact that no such mandate existed in 1966 when CDU/CSU and SPD brought about a change of government in the midst of a legislative period.

In fact, even the Constitution does not call for such a mandate. Instead, it allows a change of government without new elections.

Rudolf Strauch

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 17 September 1982)

Conservatives come to the threshold

he CDU/CSU is in on the threshld of power again after 13 years in sition. Many hopes are pinned on ge of government.

he nation expects a government that lead and give confidence. But the re of this government is no guaranthat a new one will be any better.

he conservatives are deceiving selves if they think they have ed office. If they don't act diffey from their opposition days, ic hope will quickly vanish.

ecause the CDU/CSU has been g a poor figure on the Opposition ches. It can claim no credit for ging down the coalition. That credit ngs to the SPD and the FDP themes.

he question now is: what will the U/CSU do in power that will be difnt and better? In some ways, the ervatives look better than the SPD. a start, there is none of the derous factionalism.

or another, they want power badly many in the SPD will be glad to id of it.

he conservatives are much less disued on such vital issues as security nuclear energy and have answers to individual questions. But these do yet comprise a platform. Their d design is still to be discovered.

heir domestic problems are going to he same as the SPD.

elmut Schmidt did not know how to cate himself from the dilemma of own making. He had to plug a new ion hole in the budget, but the unions and parts of his own party not even prepared to agree to the austerity measures that had already decided.

e question is: What will the conatives do? Their answers so far are atisfactory.

elmut Kohl preaches an across-thed cut of all subsidies by five per

When asked about this one isolated point of the conservative programme, other senior CDU/CSU politicians answer evasively.

The truth is that the conservatives have no economic and social programme with which to enter into coalition talks with the FDP.

All the conservatives have to offer so far is the general statement that the public will have to put up with "sweat and belt-tightening."

Chancellor Schmidt was unable to convert this essentially correct statement that was coined by him into a viable government programme.

Does Helmut Kohl think that he can do it with one hand tied behind his back?

The conservatives not only have a shortage of economic ideas; they also have deep-rooted doubts about the leadership qualities of Helmut Kohl.

He is now unopposed as Chancellor candidate because the conservatives are fed up with all the bickering over who is to hold what post. This has harmed their image in the past.

Many top CDU men smile at Kohl with clenched teeth. They shudder at the idea of Helmut Schmidt as an Opposition MP rather than the head of government taking Kohl apart in a Bundestag debate.

The tug-of-war over the conservative chancellorship nominee has only been suspended. It is far from over; and this is another dead weight on the conservatives' shoulders.

The burden of the many years they spent in the Opposition is still weighing the conservatives down. The course they took was exactly the opposite of that which lies behind the SPD: The SPD was united in Opposition. Its Godesberg Programme (without which it would never have got into power) was a demonstration of solidarity and party discipline.

The Social Democrats' decline did not set in until they became a government party. Now, the SPD is groaning under the impact of factionalism and political rivalry.

With the conservatives, it was the other way round. Their decline started with the loss of power.

In their 13 years in Opposition, they failed to build the image of a party pulling in the same direction.

Rainer Barzel's abortive attempt to topple the Chancellor, the internal party squabbles over the East Bloc Treaties, Strauss's threat to establish a fourth party, the CSU's "Kreuth Declaration of War" on the CDU, the debilitating fight against Kohl's nomination as the chancellorship candidate three years ago from which CSU Chairman Franz-Josef Strauss emerged the winner — all these were milestones along a road that lost the conservatives' loss of unity, ideas and profile.

The effects of these years can still be felt. The CDU/CSU have so far done little to dispel doubts as to their leadership qualities.

The hope that is pinned on their assuming government responsibility in Bonn does not rest on their having a convincing alternative programme, presented while in the opposition. The conservatives' capital consists of the weaknesses, the mistakes and the inflexibility of the others. But the moment there has been a change of government, this capital will be worthless.

Bernd Nellessen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 11 September 1982)

Mid-term polls subject to strict rules

Nearly half the Germans questioned in a poll this month want a snap general election, according to the Infas poll organisation.

It reported that 48 per cent were in favour and only 29 per cent against.

But holding elections in mid-term is easier said than done. Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution, lays down only two options.

First, in Article 68 the President is empowered to dissolve the Bundestag within 21 days at the Chancellor's request if the Chancellor tables a confidence motion and fails to gain an absolute majority.

The right to dissolve the Bonn parliament no longer applies when the Bundestag votes by an absolute majority of 249 "ayes" for an alternative Chancellor.

This provision requires the outgoing Chancellor to grasp the initiative after losing a vote of confidence. If he does not advise the President to dissolve the Bundestag the President cannot do so by himself.

If the Bundestag is dissolved, fresh elections must be held within 60 days.

Second, the President may dissolve the Bundestag, but only if a Chancellor is elected by other than an absolute majority of votes.

This extremely complex process is outlined in Article 63, which stipulates that the candidate proposed by the President is elected Chancellor if he enjoys the support of a majority in the Bundestag.

If he fails to command a majority the Bundestag itself may vote a candidate into office within 14 days by an absolute majority.

If a vote is not held during this period a fresh vote must be held immediately, with the candidate who receives the most votes being elected.

If the candidate elected is voted in by an absolute majority the President must induct him as Chancellor within 7 days.

If he is elected by a simple majority the President has a choice. He can either induct him or dissolve the Bundestag.

Mid-term elections have only been held once, in 1972 when Willy Brandt tabled a motion of confidence he made sure of losing in order to hold fresh elections.

Helmut Schmidt likewise suggested to the Bundestag on 17 September that fresh elections be held via a vote of confidence.

But he laid down a clear condition. The CDU/CSU must clearly undertake not to try to gain power in the meantime by holding a vote of constructive no-confidence in accordance with the provisions of Article 67.

If a vote were held along these lines, with the choice being between Helmut Schmidt and Helmut Kohl, and Dr Kohl polled 249 votes or more, he would be Chancellor in Herr Schmidt's place without any need for elections.

Herr Schmidt would like to see elections held at the end of November.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 18 September 1982)

■ DEFENCE

Campaign to standardise European arms production, export policies

The Europarliament wants to forge a common EEC armaments policy before the end of the year.

The Euro-MPs are not looking for total standardisation but for efficient and competitive production, a common stand towards the United States and common criteria for exports.

British Euro-MP Adam Fergusson has now presented a report calling on the EEC Commission to work out common criteria for the arms procurement programmes of the individual member states.

The Commission is also called upon to establish types of technologies that should be developed a) in Europe and b) in cooperation with the USA.

Mr Fergusson called on the Council of Ministers to:

1: Establish a European Analysis Bureau for Defence Issues that could be an offshoot of the Independent European Programme Group (IEPG). The IEPG now already serves the Nato partners as an instrument in achieving progress in cooperative arms procurement.

The bureau is intended as a clearing house and an agency to provide information on armaments requirements and common production facilities.

2: Replace bilateral agreements with agreements between the Community as a whole and the USA and Canada.

3: Develop bilateral production programmes that would enable European groups of companies to carry out projects developed in the USA and vice versa.

4: Try and arrive at an agreement with the USA on "families of weapons" within which Europeans and Americans would develop differing elements.

Fergusson's proposals revert to ambitious plans dating back to the 1970s. These plans were promoted primarily by the German Christian Democrat Egon Klepsch.

The idea is based on the commitment provided for in the Treaty of Rome to develop a common industrial policy for the EEC. The Christian Democrats and the Conservatives in the European Parliament hold that this cannot be implemented without the inclusion of armaments policy.

Even the 1978 Klepsch Report called for a common arms procurement policy for financial, military and political reasons.

Financial reasons because cost reduction can only be achieved through cooperation: military reasons because the equipment of Nato partners should be compatible if not identical; and political reasons because the maintenance of an efficient European arms industry is an important precondition for Europe's freedom.

Another major reason for the initiatives put forward since the 1970s has to do with relations between the Community and the USA.

As far back as five years ago, there were critics who deplored the fact that the European-American arms trade was strictly one-way: ten to one in favour of America.

As Fergusson puts it: "The Community's trade is increasingly threatened by the protectionist policy of the US Administration."

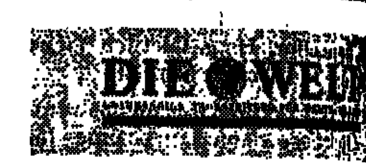
The Klepsch Report called for the establishment of a "European Armaments Agency" (a proposal backed by Leo Tindemans) and urged the EEC Commission to draft a "European action programme for the development and manufacture of conventional armaments."

Neither of the two demands [...] realised. Instead, the Commission [...] sented a sceptical report by the d[...] of the Aberdeen Centre for Defence [...] sues, David Greenwood.

Though Greenwood approved of [...] ser cooperation in the armaments [...] tor, he held that the individual go[...] ments of the Community were no[...] pared to equip a "supranational o[...] ternational agency with genuine a[...] rity that would enable it to as[...] managment functions for [...] requirements."

Besides, Greenwood does not c[...] der the IEPG an effective instrum[...] cooperation.

Fergusson rejects this negative a[...] ment, pointing to common arma[...]



developments and project plans [...] originated in the IEPG.

He is now trying to revive the o[...] project of a European armements [...] cy with German support.

He hopes to get the backing of [...] current speaker of the Europarlia[...] the Dutch Socialist Piet Dankert, [...] should be acceptable even to the E[...] parliament's left wing.

In 1977, Dankert told a meeting [...] the Western European Union: "[...] committee is firmly convinced that [...] European Nato countries can jo[...] create an armaments market that w[...] be large enough for an economical [...] output and would not depend on [...] ports to the Third World."

It would indeed be an ideal sol[...] if a common European arms p[...] could make Europe's armaments [...] try independent of Third World [...] ports.

Ulrich L[...]

(Die Welt, 9 Septem[ber 1982])

Ministry tries to keep lid on costs

The Defence Ministry is trying to introduce tighter controls over spending. Defence Minister Hans Apel has appointed an official controller.

One reason for this step is the Tornado fighter aircraft, the rocketing costs of which have caused a long debate.

The first controller is to be Dr Heinrich Padberg, the present armaments director at the Defence Ministry.

This is something of a surprise because, as the former budget director, he must have been at least partly responsible for errors involving the cost of the Tornado.

A management consultant called in for advice, Manfred Emcke, envisages the controller not as an auditor but as a "managerial navigator" and "the economic conscience of his superior."

The controller would be involved in planning, guiding, supervising, helping and managing.

Emcke and the management consultancy firm McKinsey, who prepared a study, found, among other things, that some 200 staff members of the Ministry's Armaments Department are "practically redundant" because the Federal Office for Military Affairs and Procurement in Koblenz could easily do their work as well.

The Gepard tank was delivered without the necessary logistical provisions, causing additional costs of DM150m. For the Leopard tank, this figure is DM35m and for the Roland anti-aircraft system it is DM120m — all for the same reason.

Another DM2bn could be saved by weeding out unnecessary stock, and DM1bn could be saved by streamlining stock-keeping procedures.

It has turned out that of the DM12bn Bundeswehr stock, only DM2bn worth a year is used.

In the light of all this, it is not surprising that Emcke speaks of "antediluvian methods."

The study also criticises the fact that the army, air force and navy have traditionally been allocated specific quotas of the defence budget (i.e. 50, 30 and 20 per cent respectively) instead of getting the money needed.

The controller will be assisted by sector controllers for each branch of the armed forces.

The controller will be a member of the Ministry's top executive body, the *Kollegium*.

It has not yet been decided how to divide the authorities of the inspector-general and the controller. But experts are confident that there will be no friction.

Heinz-Peter Finke

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 7 September 1982)

German general in running for top Nato post

The Bonn government would like the inspector-general of the Bundeswehr, General Jürgen Brandt, appointed chairman of Nato's military committee (MC).

Things almost went wrong last May when the post was about to go to a Dutch general. But Bonn urged that a decision be postponed until this month because there would then be an additional Nato member: Spain.

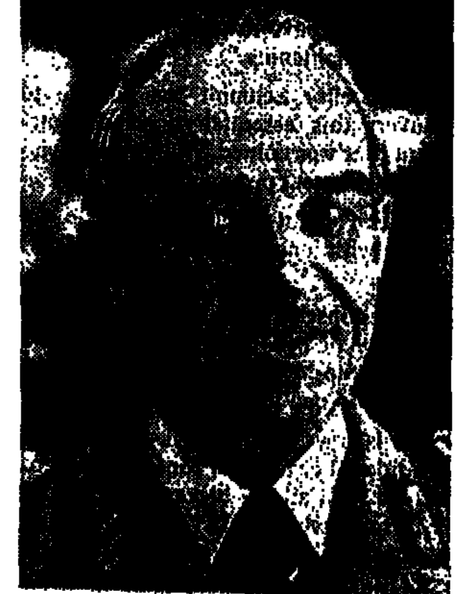
Insiders are not quite agreed on whether this is really the highest Nato post generals can achieve.

Like Nato's commander-in-chief Europe (SACEUR), who is always an American, the chairman of the military committee must be a four-star general.

The post is therefore particularly attractive to small nations, in military terms, that have difficulty finding a suitable post for a four-star general.

This applies to the current Canadian chairman of the committee, Admiral Robert Falls. It also applied to Norway's General Zeiner Gundersen before him.

While the role of SACEUR is to defend Western Europe with all available means in times of crisis or war, the role of the committee is to reconcile the US general's military needs with the financial possibilities of the participating national forces.



General Jürgen Brandt . . . need is for a soldier-diplomat. (Photo: Sven Simon)

As a result, the chairman must — even more so than the commander-in-chief of Nato — be a soldier-diplomat.

Bonn's wish once again to have a German at the head of the committee (a post held earlier by General Steinhoff and, before him, by General Heusi[nger] [...] has to do with the "(generals') S[tar] Wars" that the Bonn Defence Mi[nistry] und Nato have waged for years.

Even in the second half of the 19[...] the Bundeswehr occupied consider[ably] fewer generals' posts within Nato t[han] say, Britain, which is roughly eq[ually] important militarily.

This disproportion dates back to [the] early years of Nato when Britain, [bol]stered by its World War II victory, [sup]plied generals although it had [...] troops while the Germans kept a [low] profile for psychological reasons [...] because they still had to catch up [in] terms of training and mastery of [the] English language.

Germany's most spectacular suc[cess] in the Star Wars was when urged by [the] then commander-in-chief, Gen[eral] Alexander Haig, a second dep[uty] SACEUR post was created for the G[er]mans (next to the traditional British [de]puty).

The diplomatically and linguis[tically] gifted General Gerd Schmückle [was] ideally suited for this post.

But Schmückle's succession c[aused] some problems for the Bonn De[fence] Ministry. Germany's Admiral Gü[nter] Luther was fully qualified but eve[n] German officers at SHAPE reg[arded] him as a good man in the wrong po[st].

Luther's successor, General Gü[nter] Kiessling, is now recapturing [...] ground lost by the admiral.

Erich Hau[...]

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 13 September [1982])

LABOUR

Another blow for equal pay

Women at a Nuremberg paper factory owned by the Quelle mail order firm must be paid the same bonuses [as] their male colleagues, a court has ruled.

However the Federal Labour Court [in] Kassel has decided to allow the Labour Court in Düsseldorf to decide whether the bonus is legal.

The case is the second of two big [...] successes in a 100-year campaign [for] equal pay.

A year ago women chanted "We have [won] today. No one can push us [ar]ound," after a three-year legal wrangle finally ended in their favour when [the] same court in Kassel ruled in favour [of e]qual pay for women at the Heinze [ph]oto-processing laboratory in Gelsenkirchen.

Before that case reached the court, [the]y were given a supporting petition of [...]000 signatures and the women's [ma]gazine, *Brigitte*, named them Women [of] the Year.

There was no chanting, no tears of [jo]y and no TV cameras this time. The [Sc]hickedanz women, so called after the [fam]ily that owns Quelle, learned of the [jud]ges decision only after a three-[mon]th cooling-off period.

Although it is only a partial success, [th]e Kassel judges have now made or [...] to employers that it is up to them [to] prove that paying women less is be[cau]se of a difference in work performed [an]d not because of sex.

The trade unions now hope that the [tw]o court decisions will prompt more [wo]men workers to take their equal pay [c]laims to court.

And the women seem to be doing [ex]actly that. A group of electrical coil [wind]ers from Witten successfully fought their case before a labour court in Hamm. They said that, unlike their male fellow workers, they were paid the rate for "low physical strain" work. Although, as far back as 1955, the Federal Labour Court ruled that lower rates of pay for women are not allowed, there is still a long way to go before equal pay becomes reality.



V for victory . . . Schickedanz Women outside the Federal Labour Court in Kassel. (Photo: dpa)

Many companies still pay different wages to men and women.

Shortly after the Schickedanz ruling, Gisela Kessler of the print workers' union presented a set of figures showing that wage discrimination caused working women to lose DM40bn in pay last year alone.

The figures are based on women's wages 15 per cent below those of men, though Frau Kessler stresses that the true difference is even greater.

In both the Heinze and the Schickedanz cases the Federal Labour Court judges showed a more progressive attitude than their colleagues at the lower court in Hamm where some women fighting for equal pay were defeated.

In all likelihood, the employers' wage policy will become more sophisticated.

In the Heinze case, the plaintiffs were granted the bonuses they went to court about retroactively, but the same bonuses for the future had to be bargained out between management and works council.

A reshuffle within the company made it difficult to compare the work of men and women.

The Schickedanz ruling also marks a partial success only for the plaintiffs. Though the Federal Labour Court ruled that they must receive the same bonuses as their male fellow workers, it is up to the Düsseldorf Labour Court to decide whether the "labour market bonus" is legal.

The Kassel justices came up with a fine distinction on this point. The question is "whether the bonus is paid because it would otherwise be impossible to find takers for certain jobs or whether it is paid because men are not prepared to work at the same rate of pay as women get for the same job under the same conditions. The latter constitutes discrimination against women."

So far as the realities at various companies are concerned, only expert opinions and further court cases will clarify the finer points.

In any event, the Kassel justices have now made it clear that the onus is on employers to show why rates of pay differ.

Karl-Heinz Kalender

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 5 September 1982)

Involvement in management: 'Germans at top'

[G]erman workers are more involved in commerce and industry than [wo]rkers anywhere else, says the Institute for the German Economy.

This is because of the German system [of] *Mitbestimmung* (co-determination) [thr]ough works councils and representation on company boards.

The institute has issued the results of [a st]udy which says that the Federal Republic of Germany, the Benelux countries, Austria and France all have man[dat]ory works councils.

In Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Britain, Ireland, Switzerland and Italy, co-determination forms part of collective bargaining deals.

The Italian co-determination is based [on] both a framework law and on collective bargaining deals.

In Germany, Austria, Switzerland, [Ho]lland and Italy, works councils and [the]ir chairmen must consists entirely of [sta]ff members.

In France, the owner of a company is [auto]matically also the chairman of the [wo]rks council.

In Sweden, only two-thirds of the [wo]rks council members are staff repre[sen]tatives.

In all other European countries, the [wo]rks councils are made up of an equal [num]ber of representatives of labour and [man]agement. The chairmanship rests [wi]th management.

In most European countries, including Germany, staff representatives are [el]ected by the staff.

Co-determination in matters of personnel and social and economic issues is most highly developed in Germany.

German and Austrian works councils have a decisive say in hiring and firing and in company training schemes.

French works councils have a say on the hiring of company doctors and social workers while the Italian have a say in upholding workers' personal rights and in designing the work place.

Works councils in other European countries have only consultation and information rights, but no say in management affairs.

German works councils have co-determination rights on the rules of the house, daily working hours, the fixing of bonuses, the manner of wage and salary payments, holiday planning and company social schemes.

In Belgium, the have a say on company rules, vacation planning and social schemes.

In Holland, they co-determine pensions, profit-sharing, working hours and health and safety matters.

In all other countries, the work of the councils is restricted to consultation and control.

In Germany, the works council elects a 3- to 5-member economic committee that must be consulted by the supervisory board (as opposed to the managing board, which is responsible for day-to-day running of the company).

French works councils have a right to send four consultative representatives to supervisory board conferences.

In Holland, works councils can issue recommendations for the appointment of supervisory board members.

In the Scandinavian countries, France, Italy, Switzerland and Austria, works councils are entitled to information only.

Apart from Germany, co-determination of staff members on the supervisory board is provided for by law only in Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Norway and Luxembourg.

Germany is the only country where the supervisory boards of major companies must consists of an equal number of staff and management representatives.

In Austria, Norway and Luxembourg, the labour proportion is one-third, in Sweden and Denmark, staff has only two representatives on supervispory boards.

In all other countries, there are no legal provisions for staff representation on supervisory boards.

(Handelsblatt, 10 September 1982)

Union pushes for early retirement

Hamburger Abendblatt

The small (263,000 members) catering union (NGG) wants early retirement to be introduced as a means of fighting unemployment.

Members of all Federal political parties welcomed the motion, put at the union's ninth national congress, in Nuremberg.

Ernst Breit, chairman of the German Trade Union Federation (DGB) praised "the NGG's courage in departing from the beaten track."

Bonn Labour Minister Heinz Westphal (SPD) told the delegates that he would raise the issue of shorter working lives in the cabinet this autumn.

Günter Döding, chairman of the NGG, said that the plan, named after him, could not be implemented without parliamentary approval and that the scheme would have to be a "blend of government and collective bargaining measures." Döding was confirmed in office for a new term.

The scheme's idea is that older workers voluntarily retire their jobs in favour of younger jobless and school leavers.

As of the age of 58, they would receive 75 per cent of their net income as transition pay until the official retirement age.

Two-thirds of this amount would be *paid by the Federal Labour Office* while the other third would be subject to a collective bargaining deal.

The Labour Office and the employers would pay an equal share of the health insurance and social security pension scheme contributions. This means that the social security funds would have no additional strains.

Such an arrangement would generate no additional cost at all in the long run, Döding told the congress.

The transition money would not be taxable because the vacated jobs would be filled by younger workers who would pay taxes on their earnings. As a result, the state would not lose income tax.

But how is this scheme, if it were to be carried out, to relieve the unemployment situation?

Döding expects that two-thirds of the 60-year-old will make use of the early retirement possibility.

"This would provide about 240,000 jobs to be filled by jobless and school-leavers. If the eligibility age is 58, some 50 per cent would make use of the possibility, vacating 550,000 jobs."

Döding figures that his plan could generate half a million jobs.

The most important thing in this model is to make employers undertake to fill the vacated jobs with people now on the dole. This, Westphal said, would also be one of the conditions the Labour Ministry would have to insist on.

Much of the cost would have to be borne by employers and workers.

"Both sides," Döding said, "must therefore be prepared to make sacrifices. The trade unions would be prepared to contribute 1.2 per cent of gross wages and salaries — a genuine sacrifice, without a doubt."

Stephan Clauss

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 8 September 1982)

■ TRADE

Developing nations show what they can do

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Batteries from Bangladesh and stainless steel goods from Jordan were on show at a fair of imported goods in Berlin.

Which just goes to show how things have changed. When the first of these shows, called *Partner des Fortschritts* (Partners in Progress), was held 20 years ago, developing nations mainly offered cottage industry exhibits and items connected with their folklore.

There is nothing unexpected about such threshold countries as Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea offering electronic and electrical goods.

But it does come as a surprise that countries once considered incapable of producing fairly sophisticated industrial goods are now competing with the West.

The industrial countries have played a major role in helping the developing nations to develop their industries. Today, the North is in danger of no longer being able to stand its ground against the South. Nobody could have missed the alarm signals in Berlin.

There are two developments above all that force a review of existing attitudes.

The Third World exhibits in Berlin made it clear that the developing countries are not just copiers of Western products but that they are capable of coming up with their own range of goods. And there are customers.

These goods are competitive since production costs are less in countries where a day's wage is lower than an hourly wage in Germany and where the employer pays no fringe benefits whatsoever.

But this is not all. After-sales service and quality controls have clearly improved in the Third World.

Developing countries are now increasingly trading among each other. This is helped by the Berlin fair which provides a meeting place for sellers and buyers from all parts of the world.

Fair manager Manfred Busche estimates that 40 per cent at deals at the fair this year were accounted for by such contacts among exhibitors. This means that goods from industrial countries stood a lesser chance on Third World markets.

Third World dealers know about the shortcomings in their home countries but they no longer try to hide them. They proudly present their products and the haggling over prices and terms of payment is no different than at the Hanover Industrial Fair.

This is true despite widespread complaints about deteriorating sales opportunities for consumer goods in the industrial countries.

Since the developing nations consider themselves equal now, they are also more determined to take a firm stand towards the European Community. This self confidence has made it tougher for European politicians to negotiate in Berlin.

The EEC bureaucracy — as unloved in Swaziland as here — has come under particularly heavy attack.

Unless the markets are opened to Third World goods and unless we meet the countries of the South half-way, we might have to put up with rather unpleasant political consequences.

Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff stressed that the development aid given in 1981 was barely enough to pay a fraction of Third World oil costs. OECD countries together provided $26bn. Oil cost was $80m.

There is also growing disenchantment among the developing countries over poor terms of payment and high interest rates.

Yet the Third World is surprisingly optimitic about its position.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the developing countries know that the industrial world will be able to sell its goods in the Third World only if it reciprocates by opening its borders to imports from the South.

Jürgen Michael

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 11 September 1982)

Closing markets 'no help to the South'

General-Anzeiger

Protectionist trends in the industrial countries are on the rise as world trade growth stagnates, says the Institute for Economic Research (DIW), West Berlin.

Third World export earnings have declined steeply while current account deficits and foreign debts of developing countries are skyrocketing.

This lends new importance to plans to stimulate North-South trade.

Participation in the Berlin fair Partners in Progress is a major means of establishing new business contacts.

Aware of this, the Bonn Development Aid Ministry is promoting Third World participation in the Berlin fair through the German Technical Cooperation Corporation (GTZ).

Development Aid Minister Rainer Offergeld regards North-South trade as an important instrument in shaping the Third World's economic and social future.

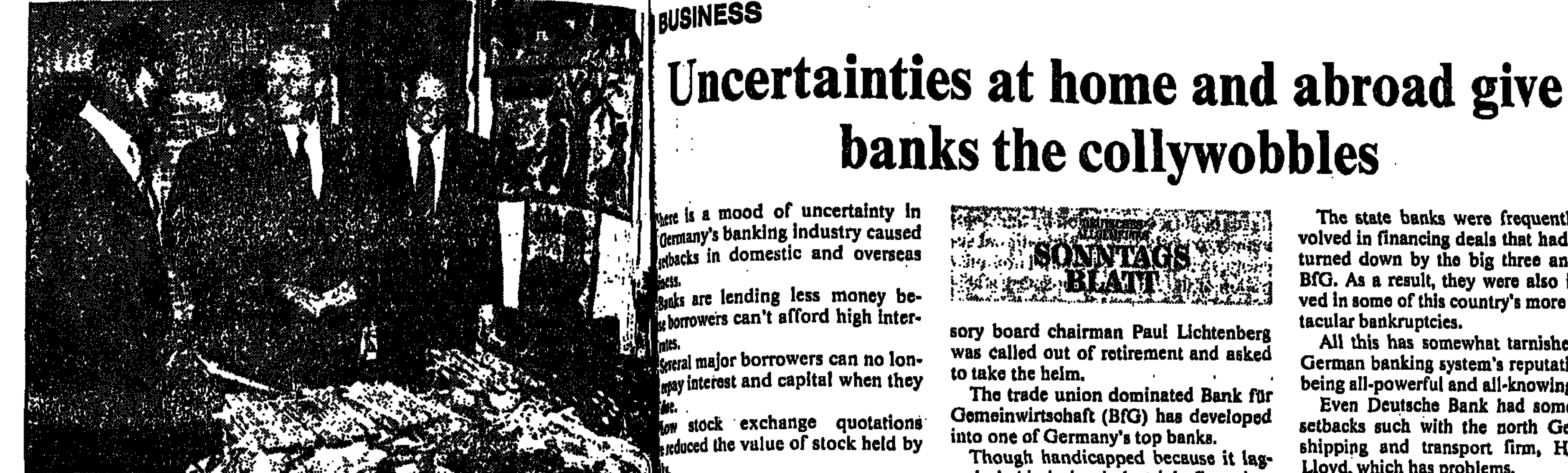
Raising the developing world's share of world trade by one per cent would amount to one-and-a-half times the entire Western development aid.

This makes importing Third World goods every bit as important as continued aid.

There would be little sense in helping the developing countries develop export industries and then closing the industrial world's market on them.

The Retailers' Foreign Trade Association (AVE) points to yet another aspect: Without imports from the Third World we would be unable to maintain our relatively low price levels. If we were to close our markets still further we would be faced with a price explosion of which the consumer would take a dim view.

(General-Anzeiger, 7 September 1982)



At the Senegalese stand in Berlin . . . from left: Senegal trade official Bruno Se[…], Bonn President Karl Carstens, and the manager of the fair, Manfred Busche,

(Photo: AMK Be[…])

Third World investment agency hits back

Handelsblatt
WIRTSCHAFTS- UND FINANZZEITUNG

The chief of a Bonn government agency which promotes private investment in the Third World has replied to criticism.

Professor Karl-Heinz Sohn, of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit* (DEG), says the agency is not a development aid institution in a strict sense but "a partner of industry."

The agency has come under criticism for allegedly exporting German jobs. Critics say it is interested only in large companies and that it invests too much in large projects.

Professor Sohn says there can be no doubt that investments in the Third World are essential in promoting industrialisation.

Only by improving production and export capabilities can those countries overcome economic and financial problems, he told *Handelsblatt.*

By putting forward this argument, he indirectly defends the DEG against accusations of concentrating its efforts on threshold countries (i.e. nations that have already achieved some industrialisation) while neglecting the poorest of the developing countries that are most in need of "survival aid."

In fulfilling its function ("development of Third World countries based on cooperation in a spirit of partnership between German and Third World companies") the DEG needs the entrepreneur both at home and overseas, he says.

Professor Sohn stressed that the DEG would not turn down investment proposals in one of the less developed countries as a matter of principle, so to speak, but "we can hardly beat somebody into setting up shop in Bangladesh."

The DEG, which was established in 1962, has just celebrated its 20th anniversary. During these 20 years it has cofinanced 120,000 jobs in 273 Third World companies, spending DM1.1bn in the form of equities and loans.

Its funds are provided by the Fede[…] government and the earnings f[…] loans, equities, etc.

The DEG was recently authorised [...] raise DM25m a year on capital mark[…]

This latest move is seen by Profes[…] Sohn as a back-up for future expansi[…] rather than as a safeguard against [...] possibility of cutbacks due to Bonn[…] tight budget.

This will enable the DEG to inv[…] about DM130m over the next few yea[…] and although the 1962 corporate bylaw[…] envisage the raising of private capi[…] there is no intention to privatise this fe[…]deral institution, despite a proposal [...] that effect by a CDU member of th[…] Bundestag.

To do this would require the pur[…]chase of DEG equities by private co[…]porations or institutions and, wh[…] more, the DEG would have to becom[…] profit-oriented for only thus would p[…]vate investors be interested.

There has been plenty of criticism [...] the DEG's work — particularly in [...] past couple of years.

Changes coming

Critics say that the DEG is interest[…] only in large corporations rather th[…] small and medium sized companies [...] partners, that it invests too much [...] large projects such as a copper mine [...] Papua-New Guinea and a steel mill [...] Saudi Arabia.

Professor Sohn on small and medi[…]sized companies: "The complaints we[…] justified to some extent and we ha[…] meanwhile changed or are about [...] change our policy on this score.

"We're also streamlining our [...]reaucracy: There'll be fewer wr[…] progress reports from the project he[…] in the field. That'll mean less red t[…] swifter decisions on participation ap[…]cations and improved lending terms, [...]cluding special interest rates."

It is naturally easier for the DEG [...] work with large companies — di[…]garding the fact that profits from s[…]

Continued on page 9

BUSINESS

Uncertainties at home and abroad give banks the collywobbles

[T]here is a mood of uncertainty in Germany's banking industry caused [by s]etbacks in domestic and overseas [busi]ness.

Banks are lending less money be[cau]se borrowers can't afford high interest rates.

Several major borrowers can no lon[ger r]epay interest and capital when they [are] due.

Low stock exchange quotations [hav]e reduced the value of stock held by [ban]ks.

Foreign business, such as with [Pol]and and Yugoslavia, has become [mo]re risky.

Deutsche Bank is now the only Ger[man] bank regarded as absolutely heal[thy]. Even the safest among the others [have] suffered. Reputations have been [tarn]ished, including the huge Dresdner [Ban]k and Commerzbank.

Dresdner's troubles have had much [to] do with the insolvency of AEG, [whi]ch have damaged not only its finan[ces] but also its reputation.

Dresdner Bank is considered the [fig]urehead of politically motivated [loa]ns, as in the case of Poland. This is [reas]on enough to subject any bank's [boo]ks and its top executives to thor[ou]gh scrutiny.

Commerzbank was faced with a crisis [last] year that some said threatened its [ver]y survival.

Commerzbank made a wrong assess[me]nt of international foreign exchange [mar]kets and made a bad mistake in as[ses]sing the dollar's performance.

The old Commerzbank board was [str]ipped of power and former supervi-

SONNTAGS BLATT

sory board chairman Paul Lichtenberg was called out of retirement and asked to take the helm.

The trade union dominated Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft (BfG) has developed into one of Germany's top banks.

Though handicapped because it lagged behind in industrial financing, which forced it to handle risk cases that had been turned down by the big three, this was offset by its close connection with huge trade-union owned corporations — a booming business for many years — and, of course, its near monopoly in the collection of union dues.

BfG suffered a setback when the trade union owned Neue Heimat (housing and construction) was involved in a scandal and the union owned Volksfürsorge insurance group showed signs of weakness.

The state banks are the fifth in this group. Originally, they were essentially clearing houses for the various federal states, maintaining close ties with the savings banks system.

As clearing houses they had a huge volume of liquid funds that naturally cried out to be put to good use.

Spearheaded by Westdeutsche Landesbank, these clearing houses ventured into industrial financing.

Here they often either bit off more than they could chew or had an unfortunate hand in picking their customers.

The state banks were frequently involved in financing deals that had been turned down by the big three and the BfG. As a result, they were also involved in some of this country's more spectacular bankruptcies.

All this has somewhat tarnished the German banking system's reputation of being all-powerful and all-knowing.

Even Deutsche Bank had some bad setbacks such with the north German shipping and transport firm, Hapag-Lloyd, which has problems.

The Hapag-Lloyd affair clearly shows that the omnipotence of the West German banking system can lead to trouble because of meshing interests that obstruct a commercially clean-cut policy.

The power of the system lies in the fact that it extends corporate credits while at the same time being stockholders of the borrowers. Another element here is that the banks' stock exchange deals enable them to manipulate certain stock quotations or at least to gain advantages through access to inside information.

Major German banks compete with each other in foreign exchange deals, which have gained considerable significance in this era of floating exchange rates.

All these areas of business provide extensive profit opportunities but they are also fraught with risks.

Some banks have found themselves in very serious trouble in each of these four areas of business, all of which require a high degree of expertise and a thorough control set-up.

These widespread activities in different areas occasionally dull the sense of risk and lead to laxity in the control system.

The attitude is that, should something go wrong in one area, success elsewhere will offset it.

This business policy is essentially sound. It is frequently glorified under the catch phrase "diversification".

But while such a policy gives bank board members peace of mind, it can be disastrous for the companies involved and for the national economy as a whole.

The insolvencies of AEG and the Wienerwald restaurant chain are cases where the banks' indecision and wrong decisions played a major role.

In the case of AEG, the banks failed to exercise proper control, resulting in losses that ran into the billions.

The Wienerwald insolvency is likely to cost several million deutschemarks. The role of the banks has been particularly ambiguous.

Wienerwald owner Friedrich Jahn had deliberately broken down his empire into a large number of small units to avoid falling under trade-union influence under the Co-Determination Act.

It wa bad enough for the banks to have gone along with Jahn in evading legal provisions, and it is more than remarkable that in doing so they found themselves unable to disentangle the Jahn empire.

The stabilising potential of the universal banking system has lost much of its reputation for dependability after these adventures.

It would be good if the new generation of bank executives were to think about this.

Günter Buschmann

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 12 September 1982)

Company share schemes don't appeal to all employees

[N]ot everybody is keen to make capi[ta]l by buying shares of the compa[nie]s they work for. Much seems to de[pe]nd on the nature of the firm.

The most likely people to take part in [sta]ff share schemes are those who are [fami]liar with the workings of com[mer]ce. The least likely are foreign wor[kers].

[Ho]chtief AG is the most profitable [of] Germany's construction companies. [It] has had a scheme since 1976 where [staf]f can buy a share a year at the par [val]ue of DM50. But only 67 per cent of [th]e eligible have joined.

The share now sells for DM440 and [the] latest dividend was DM17. Those [wi]th the company long enough to have [bou]ght four shares, costing them a total [of] DM200, have been given another [one] free. This means a gain of DM440 [with]out any investment at all.

[T]hose who did not join clearly gave [awa]y money even though the shares [mu]st be sold for five years after pur[chase].

[It] should not be beyond a construc[tion] worker to scrape together DM50 a [year]. So why did a third decline the op[portu]nity?

A similar scheme operated by [Rheini]sche-Westfälische Elektrizitäts[werk] (RWE) sheds some light on the [quest]ion. Its shares are not as gilt-edged [as Ho]chtief's, but still an excellent way [of u]sing savings.

[At] the last share offer, 93 per cent of [emp]loyees at the main administration [head]quarters joined in. But only 48 per [cent] of the entire staff did. This seems to show that manual and skilled workers were not so interested.

At Deutsche Bank, 83 per cent of the eligible staff took advantage of the scheme but only 37 per cent of Mannesmann employees opted for it at the last offer.

This figure is roughly the average of the past five years although the Mannesmann shares earn interest of about 10 per cent.

About 80 Geman companies operate such schemes. They have between 800,000 and one million employee shareholders (including pensioners) and can hardly be blamed for having inadequately informed their staff. That would be the easy way out.

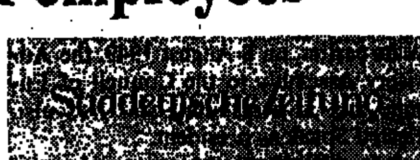
The truth seems to be that stock as such meets with a great deal of prejudice among blue collar workers.

Stock is seen as something capitalistic — something a decent person wouldn't touch.

As a rule the blue collar worker simply does not understand such things as dividends, tax relief and portfolios. He cannot see through the working of a stock market where the value of his share is decided.

But there must be other, imponderable, elements.

This type of scheme can therefore play only a small part in capital accumulation for most people; and this



should be taken into account in the current discussion of this social policy evergreen.

In any event, the term "capital accumulation" in the sense of "having something for a rainy day" or something that can be left to the children should be handled with care.

Bayer AG has operated a staff shareholder scheme since 1953 and now has about 30,000 shareholders among its employees. Being one of the most experienced German companies in this field, Bayer must know what it is talking about when it says that most of its staff shareholders buy the stock for a specific long-term purpose such as the financing of a home or some major purchase rather than as a nest egg.

Most people feel that social security and company pensions plus savings are enough to provide for their old age.

The declining interest in staff shares could well have to do with this. Stock markets are now more confusing than ever, stock prices reflect anything but a steady appreciation and the people realise that you would have to be a real pro to make more money with short-term speculative investments than with other more secure investments.

The most important factor of capital accumulation is what is called the DM624 Act.

Unlike staff shares, this form of savings is promoted by the trade unions and included as part of their collective bargaining deals.

Some 19 million workers are now part of this programme and have their employers and the state feed their savings accounts.

Since the annual average now stands at DM520 per person the legal provisions (DM624) have not yet been made full use of. So there is still some scope there.

But we are getting closer and closer to the magic DM624 per annum, and even now this type of saving amounts to about DM9bn a year (plus government premiums).

Most of this money goes into a variety of long-term savings schemes of which saving towards a home accounts for only 25 to 30 per cent. The figure for life insurances is still lower and corporate stock — even in the form of staff shares — is still short of a breakthrough.

So, is the staff member as shareholder doomed to remaining a dream?

Ernst Berens

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 September 1982)

■ THE EEC

The Euro-Parliament reaches out to its electorate

The European Parliament is trying to break through a barrier to reach its electorate: there is only one year left before the start of the campaign for the second set of direct elections to the European Parliament.

However, it would be unfair to maintain that the suggestions for a more extensive constitutional reform of the European Community result purely from tactical election considerations.

The interested European can well appreciate that the political standstill and the diplomatic lack of action cannot stay forever. Not only members of the European Parliament feel this way but also government representatives in Brussels and Strasbourg have underlined it.

Among others, Gaston Thorn, the President of the EC Commission. He appeals for a "peace between the institutions" — Parliament, the Council of Ministers and the Commission.

To make sure this does not turn out to be the peace of the graveyard, various suggestions have been brought up-to-date in this political autumn.

At a large-scale conference — on the lines of the Messina Conference in 1955 — Thorn wishes to redefine the objectives and priorities of the European Community.

One reason is to help solve problems which will probably emerge form a southern extension of the community to include Spain and Portugal and which cannot be compensated for by the Community's "petty cash".

With this in mind, Thorn began a tour of the ten Community capitals at the start of September.

His list of demands also include the raising of the EEC's own resources, the fight against unemployment and the realisation of an Economic and Monetary Union.

The Parliament's President, Piet Dankert, has introduced a twelvepoint plan, which is aimed at bringing the Council of Ministers down from its high horse of ignorance.

The Council should allow Parliament to take part in shaping foreign policy, not draw up treaties with third countries against the will of a requisite majority of Parliament issue systematic reports on legislation and consult Parliament before before appointing a new EC commissioner.

More influence

Dankert suggests to the Commission that it accepts the legislative suggestions made by Parliament so as to increase the influence of Parliament's members on legislation.

Parliament, as opposed to the Commission, does not possess a binding right of initiative. If the Commission decides not to pass the parliamentary suggestions on to the Council of Ministers, it should, according to Dankert's proposals, at least justify this decision.

This would lead to greater discussion by force of argument. The European Parliament had already adopted guidelines for the setting up of a European Union before the summer recess.

The EP wishes to turn the national



parliaments into allies to break the opposition shown by the ministerial bureaucracy towards democratic control over European policies.

The general rapporteur on this subject, Altiero Spinelli, has his eyes set on a political hinge upon which the Parliaments could unite on a national and European level: the political parties. For the parties work out election programmes for both levels.

The main thing therefore is to establish an inner consistency between the two levels.

Spinelli is not only interested in specific demands but wishes to set up an institutional framework so as to (1) extend the political influence of the Community to a greater number of fields and (2) not to allow the whole affair to become a competitive fight between unequal partners. Spinelli does not see the responsibility of the Community purely manifesting itself in fixing the producer prices for agricultural products, but in a contribution by the Community to world peace, international security, to a correct and fruitful administration of the Alliances, monetary stability and to a new world economic order.

An ever-increasing number of parliamentary members support the guideline of such a European policy, regardless of which parliamentary party they belong to. However, among the spokesmen, priorities are differently emphasised.

Klaus Hänsch (SPD, Düsseldorf), for example warns against being "overhasty" in working out a constitutional paper, which in the end may only turn out to be a mere piece of paper.

He does not believe that a constitutional reform can be achieved within the next five or six years. In answer to the accusation that he regards everything as too "short-term" that is down to be completed before the never-never day he stresses that politicians should first get together to discuss the issues of future policies — ranging from the fight against unemployment, the reform of agricultural policy to the reform of energy policy.

Gerd Pfennig (CDU, Berlin), on the other hand, would like to see a European Union to begin with, and also supports adopting a working plan by autumn 1983, which could then be presented to the national parliaments and governments to be brought into the election campaign.

He does not just want to see the functions of the Community decribed but is interested in specific content of a Community policy.

One of the services which should be rendered by the European Parliament should apparently be to think through the Community's future chances to devise new treaties, but to make sure that with an eye on the governments of the ten member states that they abide by the letter and the spirit of the Treaty of Rome.

Fewer controls

The Christian Democrats, for example, at the plenary session this month in Strasbourg, made an appeal for a more "European" treatment of international commuters and the Socialists are fighting for the removal of frontier controls.

A citizen's Europe should not end at the intra-Community borders, but start there.

Norbert Paul Engel

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 10 September 1982)

Hopes on both sides of the Rhine 30 years later

The European Parliament has celebrated its 30th birthday.

Thirty years ago, on 10 September 1952 after the ECSC-Treaty came into force the new Assembly was set up in Strasbourg and elected the Belgian, Paul Henri Spaak, as its first president.

A second Parliament had emerged from the idea of European unity. Three years earlier, on 8 August 1949, the Advisory Assembly to the Council of Europe met in Strasbourg and had also elected Spaak as president.

It is difficult for an ageing observer of European affairs to describe the mood and the hopes which moved Europeans on both sides of the Rhine. A parliament for Europe, four years after the end of the most terrible war Europe had ever seen, this was the expression, indeed it seemed to be the fulfilment of a fundamental change in policies and a political culture in the Kantian sense, a culture of eternal peace.

However, the members of the new parliaments soon realised their powerlessness, and they were not willing to accept the situation.

The will of the majority was already expressed on 6 September 1949: "The assembly is of the opinion that the purpose and aim of the Council of Europe must be to create a European political authority with limited functions but genuine legal powers."

The struggle to achieve this objective was fought out for well over two years; then it was given up as lost. Paul Henri Spaak stepped down from his presidential seat and, as an ordinary member of parliament he expressed his disappointment and indignation a few days later:

"The amount of energy used up in this assembly to discover that there is nothing to do really surprised me. Today, everyone has his own good reason for sticking to his viewpoint . . . If we in this assembly, and of this I am certain, were to have used one quarter of our energy saying "yes" instead of "no", we would not be in the predicament we are in today . . ."

Spaak then listed the sins and failings one by one which in his eyes were responsible for the failure of efforts in the Advisory Assembly.

Finally, Spaak quoted a sentence from Bernard Shaw's *Joan of Arc*: "Joan of Arc is standing before Charles VII. The English — I do not wish to make historical allusions — have occupied France. Charles VII has fled to Bourges — he has become the little King of Bourges. Nobody trusts him any more.

"Suddenly, Joan appears. She has nothing but her faith and her hope. She begins to speak and all assembled begin to ridicule her. The generals, the bishops, the lawyers — up until the moment that a young man arrives, who accompanies her in her struggle — and let us not forget — in her victory. While others accuse her of being mad he says: 'Let the madmen rule! Look what the wisemen have brought us!

"Whether we wish to hear it or not, today this is no longer the assembly which represents the cause of a United Europe."

One man foresaw this dilemma, Robert Schuman, advised by the brilliant Jean Genet. They brought the idea of a united Europe on to a new track. The development of the community began.

The second Parliament had just started its activities when the members, incited by Alcide de Gasperi, did what the Council of Europe had failed to do: it worked out a constitution for a united Europe.

The fall of the European Defence Community at the end of August 1954 was at the same time the end of the constitution, of this hope. The Joint Assembly did not have the power to continue the fight for a political, a real and citizen's Europe.

Thirty years later, the European Parliament has again resolved to take up the struggle for a real Europe. On 6 July it adopted the guidelines for the setting up of a European Union. Under circumstances more difficult then 30 years ago, supported by a direct mandate there is once more a chance that Europe will become political, i. e, that is will place grater emphasis on social movements and assume an effective and able position, whose will can be articulated in a federal parliamentary system.

The yardstick has been known for some time the Parliament must have genuine authority with limited functions but real powers. Yet again Shaw's Joan of Arc emerges to characterise the situation in exemplary form.

Standing before Charles VII, Joan calls upon him to assume his role as King. But Charles says he is afraid: "I do not wish to murder anyone, I only wish to be left alone, so than I can amuse myself in my own way.

"I did not ask to become King. And I do not wish to be courageous. Let others be courageous. They should fight to the last."

Joan of Arc remains firm and says: "There is no way out, Charles. You must bear the burden God has given you. If you cannot become a King, you will remain a beggar."

This was the situation for Charles VII. . . . and this is the situation for the European Parliament today: A King or a beggar; the members of the European Parliament must take their pick.

Claus Schöndube

(Europäische Zeitung, September 1982)

ENERGY

Nuclear plant plan thrown into doubt

Cost and safety factors are likely to mean the end of plans to build a breeder nuclear reactor at Kalkar, on the Rhine.

Latest estimates put the cost at DM6.5bn. This compares with an estimate of DM5bn a year ago.

In addition two reports on safety and security are being considered by the government. One report is sceptical.

The compilers, members of the Research Group on Fast Breeders, says the present security provisions are inadequate and the result of an accident would be far worse than with a traditional reactor. Another report, by the Society for Reactor Security, says the technical and security disadvantages can be eliminated by taking precautions. The reactor would then be as safe as a conventional reactor. More safety measures, however, will cost money, and it is doubtful whether the money can be raised. Chancellor Schmidt and Research Minister Andreas von Bülow have already decided that additional costs would not be covered by the Federal budget. This means that if industry is not prepared to donate some cash, the whole plan will probably fall through.

That means that a demonstration planned for the beginning of next month can probably be called off.

Why has the cost risen so much? A report just completed says that all parties involves — the Technology Ministry, planning authorities, the Commission for Reactor Security, and individual scientists — underestimated the difficulties in getting permission to build such a reactor.

For example, half of the DM1.7 billion increase of DM6.5 billion is attributed to delays in obtaining permission for provisional go-aheads and the need to take the accompanying conditions into consideration.

About a quarter of the cost increase is put back to the normal rate of inflation over the past ten years, and the rest — again about a quarter — results from the lack of optimal management coordination between the federal and the *Länder* authorities, the firms and the scientific institutions. Many of the strict conditions laid down for the fast breeder resulted from the fact that it had to be made as safe as a conventional hydraulic pressure nuclear reactor. The German Bundestag's Survey Commission on "Future Nuclear Energy Policies" has to work its way through both reports this month and make their judgment. At the end of October the Bundestag will then have to base its decision on whether and under what conditions this breeder can be made operational on this recommendation. The opponents of nuclear energy might just as well stop their "Stop Kalkar" campaign.

Michael Globig

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 17 September 1982)

Working it all out . . . during decontamination work on the Otto Hahn. Calculations on the wall of the safety chamber.

(Photo: Bock)

Hitting back

Continued from page 6

...jects are larger than those that can be expected from smaller partners — because they are experienced in foreign investments.

But future projects with major German companies will be subjected to closer scrutiny to establish whether Gtz involvement is needed at all or whether perhaps the projects can be carried out without it.

Professor Sohn emphasises that it is anything but easy to interest small or medium companies in overseas ventures because "they are too introverted and immobile."

(Handelsblatt, 3 September 1982)

Atomic-powered ship goes back to diesel

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

An atomic-powered ship has been sold to a shipyard for conversion into a conventional diesel-engine trading vessel.

It has undergone a process to decontaminate parts affected by nuclear fuel in an exercise believed to be the first ever in the world.

The *Otto Hahn* was launched in Kiel in 1968. It cost about DM200m and was the first West European ship to be powered by nuclear energy.

The vessel, which is being sold for about DM3m, is now "radiologically clean" according to a spokesman for the health and safety authorities.

About 25 specialist were involved in the actual decontamination work. A spokesman for the Research Ministry said the radiation only came to 20 per cent of the permitted dose per person. Radiactivity checks were constantly carried out.

For the first time it has been shown that nuclear installations can be decontaminated.

The parts dismantled from the *Otto Hahn* are to be examined and observed by the Research Ministry over the next ten to fifteen years.

In eleven years the ship travelled about 650,000 nautical miles, in polar and tropical waters. It put into 33 ports in 22 countries.

It used about 80 kilogramms of fissionable uranium-235.

The 172 metres long, 23 metres wide vessel could reach 17 knots. *dpa*

(Der Tagesspiegel, 11 September 1982)



Catching sea breezes

This is said to be the largest windmill in the world. It is a wind energy installation in Kaiser Wilhelm Koog, at the mouth of the Elbe, on the North Sea. A three-year testing period will begin next year. Enough power to supply 4,000 households will eventually be produced. The height of the DM80m installation is over 450 feet and the rotor blades are about 150 feet long. (Photo: dpa)

■ PHILOSOPHY

A physicist who left a message for men of science

The writer, Heinz Maier-Leibnitz, is a professor at the Central Institute of Low Temperature Research of the Bavarian Academy of Science at Garching. He was a pupil of James Franck.



Physicist James Franck would have turned 100 on 26 August this year.

An exhibition dealing with Franck and his colleague, Max Born, who was also born 100 years ago, is being held in Berlin in November.

Much has been written about Born in connection with the most important discovery this century, the start of the development of quantum mechanics, which began with Max Planck and represents the most significant extension of our natural laws since Newton and Maxwell.

Franck was involved in this development as an experimental physicist, and in 1925, together with Gustav Hertz, he received the Nobel Prize for his efforts. But this is not the only reason for the commemoration.

In his most fruitful period, in Berlin and then above all in Göttingen, Franck was a symbol for the flourishing field of physics in Germany.

However, two events made him stand out as a shining example as a person:

In April 1933 he resigned his professorship as a protest because he was no longer able to choose his colleagues.

And in 1945, two months before the Hiroshima bomb, Franck, at the time Director of the Chemistry Division of the Metallurgical Laboratory, the Chicago Department of the Manhattan Project, submitted a report to the War Ministry, later known as the Franck report.

"Göttingen was totally unprepared for the Nazis ... it paid the price"

He completed this report together with those sharing his views, and in it he appealed not to use the atomic bomb on humans but to carry out a demonstration to reveal its potentially decisive effect on ending the war.

In both cases he took action, in situations where most would have remained silent.

Franck was not automatically destined to become involved in politics. He was a heart-and-soul physicist. This inclination persuaded him to opt out of the world of business in which his family lived and begin studying chemistry in Frankfurt.

He went on to study physics in Berlin, and his choice of this science resulted from his preference for the simple answers physics could provide. Franck was an ardent supporter of the search for the simple basics.

In Berlin he studied under famous physicists like Max Planck, Drude, Heinrich Rubens and Emil Warburg, completing his doctorate for Warburg.

Academic Berlin at the turn of the century must have been the complete incarnation of the Humboldt-style university idea. The freedom of professor to go their own way in scientific research, thus testing renewing and extending the universal knowledge they taught.

This freedom was also shared by the up-and-coming scientists at the institutes. Franck joined forces with Gustav Hertz during this period. They both tried to unravel the complication phenomena of gas dischrge (today, for example, the fluorescent tube), and they did so with the aid of simple measurements using the known laws of physics.

Their limited success was then the subject of controversial debate, of which scientists were so fond then.

Then, however, something new appeared on the scene. A new era had emerged in Berlin as a result of experiments by Rubens, and decisively influenced by Max Planck's statement demanding a renunciation of classic mechanics.

The close interaction between scientists soom spread and Franck and Hertz realised that their experiments had a contribution to make.

In many experiments and trials and errors they noticed that the electrons which induce light in gas discharge suffered certain losses of energy, which in some simple cases corresponded to Planck's relationship of the wavelength of the light emitted.

For this explanation, which today is a natural part of the quantum theory, they received the Nobel Prize in 1925. Franck's Nobel speech finished with the words: "I have taken up much of your time describing many dead-ends and detours, which we have taken in a field in which the correct path has been established by Bohr's theory. Only later, after we had learnt to trust inhis leadership, did our difficulties disappear.

"We know only too well that the general recognition our work has gained is due to the connection with the ideas of Max Planck and above all Niels Bohr."

Following the war, in which he was awarded the Iron Cross 1st Class as a soldier (there have been many recent description of the patriotic convictions of Jewish families), Franck went to Fritz Haber at the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute for Physical Chemistry and went on to become Director of the second Physics Institute after a year at the University of Göttingen.

The fact that this Institute existed was part of the policies followed during this period, characterised by the flourishing atmosphere at Göttingen.

Without the active efforts of the Ministry and without the initiative of the expert Altnoff to encourage something outstanding (in Göttingen's case this was mathematics), Göttingen would have remained a provincial university.

Today, there is often talk of the need to differentiate the support for the universities in the interests of quality.

However, such a differentiation must start where something good already exists.

Academic positions and material provisions alone, however, are not enough to make a good university. The "spirit of Göttingen" is the kind of thing that is needed, and it would appear that Franck played a leading and stimulating role in this respect.

He organised a weekly colloquium, regularly attended by professors of physics, mathematics and to a certain extent chemistry.

Today the word is interdisciplinary interest; at that time there was much more of it and the young scientists and even the students benefitted.

The main thing, however, was that they all spoke with one another, met, discussed, became acquainted with the works of others, respected but also criticised them.

The interaction between scientists is always full of tension and can often culminate in rejection and isolation.

To prevent this from happening, strong and selfless personalities are needed, who are interested in both the subjects and the human beings and can gain access to both.

I believe Franck's role in all of these fields was a decisive one. He was eminently sociable, but mainly on a one-to-one basis, often speaking very openly to the younger colleagues.

What impressed me at the time was the feeling of freedom felt by the younger scientists, each having his only special subject and significance; this can only occur in a circle in which at least some are interested in others and at the same time selfless. It is usually very difficult for a Nobel Prize winner to excel beyond his outstanding achievements and branch out into other fields.

Franck obviously intended introducing the new established quantum theory as a tool for analysing numerous phenomena in the atomic field and the field of chemistry. For this purpose he worked together with a huge number of fellow scientists, who had applied from all over the world, many graduate students studying for their doctorate. Many topics had an exploratory character and success took some time to arrive.

"Political solutions should not be left entirely to governments"

And yet it is hard to predict what the Institute and Göttingen may well have achieved had the year 1933 not dawned upon them. Göttingen was totally unprepared for the Nazi takeover. Revenge was taken for the many years of political abstinence. Göttingen was now vulnerable to brute force.

The subjugation as it were did not take place it was already there. Under these circumstances, the step taken by Franck — he gave up his professorship because he was no longer free to choose his collegues — was indeed a fanfare, the only one to be heard a long way off. It did not instil great courage into us, but we have something we can think of; and for those who understood Franck's step, affection turned into admiration.

Franck found it hard to leave Germany and soon after the war he returned to help many of us.

Partly he helped us personally in that time of dire need, and partly he he[lped] us by reestablishing the links to for[eign] scientists. The beneficient role pl[ayed] by the 1933 emigrants after the wa[r is] not sufficiently well-known. We can[not] thank them enough, as none of t[his] support can be taken for granted. [In] America, Franck was honoured and [of]fered university chairs, the last o[ne in] Chicago. Of course, he was never [able] to establish such a circle as in Gö[ttin]gen but while in the States he furth[ered] work on photosynthesis and had m[any] ideas to contribute to this field.



James Franck ... spoke out when [most] would have remained silent. (Pho[to: ...])

The problem, however, proved [too] difficult to be solved at that time, [and] even today the process of how pl[ants] soak up energy from the sun is still [not] fully understood.

Franck was very late in joining with the Manhattan Project, one [...] before the first reactor became cri[tical] in Chicago.

Whether he or his colleagues w[ould] have done so if they had known that Germans would build no bombs [is a] pointless question.

The fact that his experience h[ad] shown him to be wary of the Germ[ans] is obvious. The fact that he had given much thought to the inhumanity of [the] new weapon before the first bomb w[as] dropped, in a time in which victory [for] the Allies seemed more important [than] anything else, this is a great achie[ve]ment.

Franck made the first step in a di[rec]tion towards which many would be w[ill]ing to follow him today. He has left with something which questions b[...] following.

In his own words: "Whatever [...] happened in our time, it results, I [be]lieve, from the fact that people h[ave] mostly left the solving of political p[ro]blems up to governments."

He has raised a problem which is [re]levant for all generations. The scient[ists] too, are faced with new tasks. Before [we] are able to do things better than gov[ern]ments we must understand the co[ns]traints and motives essential to gov[ern]ing.

Without such knowledge any co[ntri]bution on our part must remain [...] plan. We have learnt a great deal f[rom] our teachers and James Franck, and [our] admiration has helped us. We h[ave] tried to pass on our knowledge, bu[t] as Franck did, enabling us to le[arn] more ourselves and encourage younger scientists and students to le[arn] themselves.

Nothing helps as much as a shin[ing] example.

Heinz Maier-Leibnitz
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Ze[itung] für Deutschland, 26 August [...])

THE CINEMA

Where death lies in wait at the end

[H]alf way along Life's course, I found myself within a dark forest, the true path was lost."

[Th]ese words can be found in Dante's [de]scription of hell in his Divina Com[med]ia.

[W]im Wenders chose this melancholy [li]ne as the motto for his latest film [Der] Stand der Dinge (The State of [Aff]airs), and the quotation indeed cap[ture]s the state of mind of both Wen[ders]' fictitious hero and of the artist [We]nders himself.

Wenders, born in 1945, has made a [na]me for himself in Germany and else[whe]re by producing films like *Falsche [Bew]egung* (False Moves), *Im Lauf der [Zeit]* (Kings of the Road) and *Der ame[rika]nische Freund* (The American [Frie]nd). His films, with their very sub[jecti]ve view of the world, revealed such [m]astery of this artistic craft that Fran[cis] Ford Coppola, director of *The God[fath]er*, brought Wenders over to Ameri[ca].

[Th]is was where Wenders filmed [*Ha*]*mmett*, a carefully thought-through [stu]dio production, which Wenders took [ye]ars to complete in an atmosphere [...]d of the creative freedom of Euro[pean] artistic films.

Today Wenders says he is proud of [*Ha*]*mmett*, an emotionless, sterile copy [of] the type of film referred to in the [ann]ales of cinema history as "Holly[wo]od's Black Series".

He adds, however, that the script[wri]ter has got too much say in America, [wh]ich means that spontaneity suffers, [ev]erything being so manipulated in the [pre]paratory stages to ensure a smooth [...]ing.

The film business in the United [Sta]tes, and this is nothing new, really is [a "]business" In reality Wenders' stay in [Ho]llywood must have been more labo[rious] that he admits.

The experiences he made there must [have] upset him to such a degree that [*Der*] *Stand der Dinge* represents a kind [of s]elf-therapy.

[A]s in Billy Wilder's *Sunset Boulevard* [or] Francois Truffaut's *La Nuit Ameri[caine]* Wenders shows us the film in the [film], an inside view of the industry of [the] beautiful.

The tristesse of the subject-matter, [how]ever, lends itself to comparison [with] Fellini's *8 1/2*, that apotheosis of [the ar]tist's *Lebenskrise*.

Wenders' film is set on the coast of [Portu]gal, in a forlorn and rotting hotel, [whi]ch is being gradually destroyed by [ince]ssant storms. Just as *Hammett* is a [rema]ke of handed down classics, the [film] team shown in *Der Stand der [Din]ge* is trying to remake a film by Al[lan] Dawn produced in the fifties, *The [Mos]t dangerous Man alive.*

The devastated milieu leaves no [doub]t as to the depressive basis mood [of t]he film, there is a definite link bet[ween] outward appearance and inner [feeli]ngs.

The scenery, to begin with purely [back]ground, increasingly illustrates the [ac]tors' psyches and the state of production.

After two weeks filming the team runs out of money and film.

They all have to wait for Gordon, the producer, who flew back to Los Angeles right at the start of filming and promised to return with more money and material.

Prevented from constructing their fictitious world, the camera man, the scriptwriter, the head of production, the script girl and the director have to face up to the fiction of their own existence, must tornent themselves with their fears and illusions.

"Life is colour, but black-and-white is more realistic", we hear, and indeed *Der Stand der Dinge* bears all the marks of a story from the realm of shadows, and this not just because death lies waiting at the end of the film.

Wenders' film is a vote against the computer film, large productions like *Poltergeist* or *The Hunters of Hidden Treasure*, where the effects, the pictures and characters are mixed according to the instructions of a data memory bank.

Wim Wenders denies any similarities to his own biography, yet the emotionalism of this film can only be explained by personal involvement.

Nevertheless the jury decided to the award the *Golden Lion* to Wim Wenders. This decision runs against festival custom in as much as last year another German Film, *"Die bleierne Zeit"* (The Leaden Age) received the first prize.

Considering the fact that Fassbinder's *Querelle* was the only film regarded as an alternative for the *Lion*, this is indeed an unprecedented triumph for German cinema.

Marcel Carné, one of the members of the jury, sharply criticised giving the award to Wenders.

In his opinion, Fassbinder's film will be the only one to go into cinematografic history, although in the end Wenders was the winner.

One of the reasons for his victory is undoubtedly the fact that the main jury at this 50th film festival in Venice was exclusively made up of directors, and the vote for this elegiac, melancholy film, which reflects the crisis of the film industry, could be seen as an indicator of the film-makers' frame of mind.

Admittedly, the award could have been given to Eric Rohmer's film *Le Beau Mariage*.



Making a film within a film ... Sam Fuller (left) as veteran cameraman and Patrick Bauchau, as the German director in 'Der Stand der Dinge'. (Photo: Filmverlag der Autoren)

This cheerful, extremely amusing and most intelligent film, however, does not fit in with the present general mood of finding pleasure in pessimism.

The film must be assigned to the well-worn genre of stories built up around relationships, its appeal results from its attempt to turn convention and rituals upside down.

The tragi-comical heroine in Rohmer's film is called Sabine, an art student living in Le Mans.

Out of the blue she breaks off her relationship with a married man and begins her search for legalised togetherness.

Very soon her eye is caught by a lawyer, and the wooing commences, marked by a comical touch since Rohmer completely reverses the roles of the sexes.

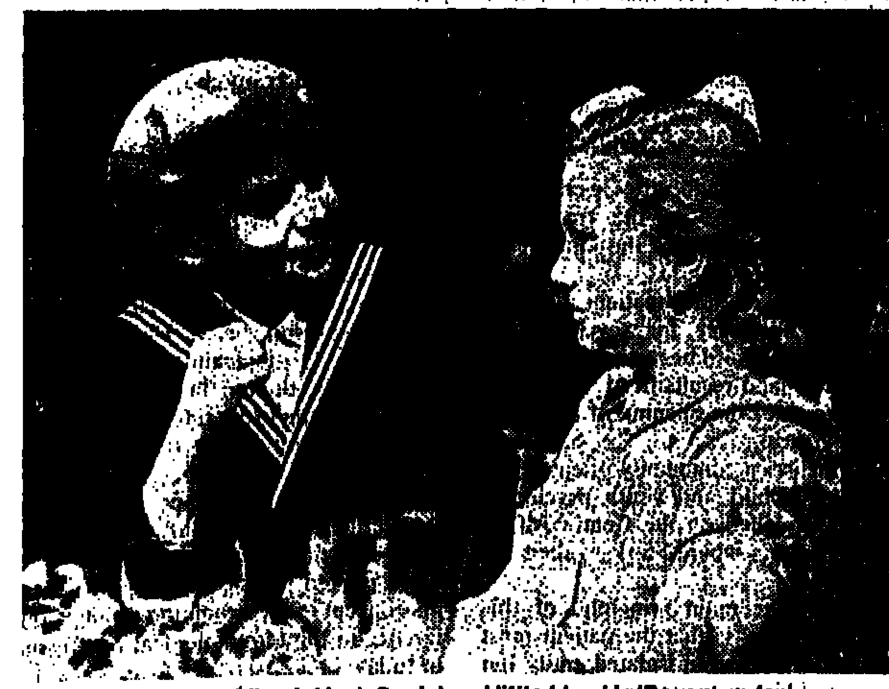
At Sabine's birthday, for exhmple, she sullenly takes note of the birthday greetings, her "beloved" keeps her waiting, then he arrives, more out of duty than inclination, and is totally surprised at the familiarity with which he is greeted; the only thing missing is the dowry.

With a lot of coaxing Sabine lures him into her room; there's a close-up of her hand on the door-knob.

The door closes and the whole repertoire of *man's* unimaginative seductive charms is unfolded — by a woman.

To begin with she entices him onto the bed, but this gentleman is not interested in the benevolence of the situation. She then rests her head lightly on

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Benny Goldbach (Jack Geula) and little friend in 'Regentropfen'. (Photo: End-Film)

A Third Reich flashback to a Jewish boy

The importance of cinema to recall the fate of Jews during the Third Reich is not in doubt.

But many attempts to look critically at the past do not fully use the possibilities of artistic presentation.

The more "realistic" such a pictorial presentation of the atrocities and violence is, the greater the discrepancy.

Ostracism, persecution, concentration camps, torture and murder: many films go to extremes in their reappraisal, and *yet they come nowhere near the truth of* the problem.

Regentropfen (Raindrops) by Michael Hoffmann and Harry Raymon, on the other hand, put an important point into concrete terms: the aspect of not understanding, or to be more correct, the inability fully to comprehend.

Events after 1933 are seen through the eyes of a child, little Benny Goldbach (Jack Geula).

Benny lives with his parents (Elfriede Irrall, Walter Renneisen) in a small town in the Hunsrück area of Rheinland-Palatinate, totally integrated into the community.

The fact that his mother switches off the radio when she hears her son humming a melody which is being played more and more often doesn't bother him. Not yet anyway.

Soon afterwards he is not allowed to play with the other children in the school yard, and he sees uniformed police standing in front of his parents' shop. The family has to do its shopping in the next village.

Wherever he goes, Benny hears the word *"Judebub"* (Jewish laddy). He has only just learnt to come to terms with being a Jew and now he finds out that he is to be punished just because he is one.

Now, things do start to bother him and he would like to be able to understand what is happening. His parents react nervously to his probing questions, not so much because of fear but because they know no answers themselves.

In 1935 they decide to emigrate to America. Up until the issuing of the visa they stay in Cologne, in the anonymity of a big city, living in a Jewish guesthouse.

At long last they get their yearned for

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BEHAVIOUR

Deepest of human secrets revealed by the dirty singlet test

The stinky cotton-singlet smelling test has enabled researchers to find out something more about the role of human sense of smell in personal relations.

Researchers in Seewiesen used German, Italian and Japanese couples to see how they reacted when confronted with someone else's dirty singlet, and if in fact they could recognise the odour as belonging to them or someone else.

Drs Margret Schleidt and Barbara Hold of the Research Centre for Human Ethology of the Max Planck Institute for Behavioural Psychology found that the nose knows and that its role in person-to-person relations is greater than generally assumed.

First, the smells had to be made. This was done by getting each person to sleep seven successive nights in the same singlet, specially issued for the occasion.

This was done three times with three separate sets of singlets under slightly varying conditions. After each seven-day sweaty preliminary, the smelling tests took place.

In the first test, odourless soap and no perfumes or deodorants were allowed.

In the second and third tests, the participants could use which ever they wanted of the bathroom resources known in finer circles as toiletries.

The singlets were presented for smelling after each seven-day period. Each person in the first two tests had to first see if he or she could recognise his or her own personal aroma.

Then he or she had to pick out the wife's/husband's whiff. All singlets then had to be classified into male and female smells.

The last duty was to establish whether the various smells were pleasant, unpleasant, or whether the sniffer had no strong feelings on the matter.

Now for the scoreboard:

The national performances of the Germans, Japanese and Italians were pretty much the same when it came to recognising their own smell and being able to tell the differences between the way a woman reeks and the way a man does.

About a third identified their own and their partners' singlets.

In each of the three tests, though, singlets were often wrongly smelled-out as belonging to the wife when in fact, the smell was the husbands. And the reverse. But at least the smell was all in the family.

Where there was no free-choice of soap about a third accurately nosed out the difference between make and female smells. In the free-choice section, this capacity to tell fell sharply away.

The tendency of artificial smells to cloak the sex differences also had an effect on the emotional reactions.

In the test series with the uniform toiletries, male and female smells were assessed differently: both sexes more frequently classified the female smell as "pleasant" and its male counterpart as "unpleasant".

Most of women classified their own smell as "pleasant" while most of the men regarded their own smell as "unpleasant".

These assessments had nothing to do with whether a test person could actually differentiate between male and female smells. This means that the emotional classification in terms of "pleasant", "unpleasant" or "indifferent" reflects a more keen differentiation between the sexes than the verbal classification as male and female.

In the series where everybody could use his own toiletries, the differences between the sexes was less. Both males and females classified male and female smells as predominantly "pleasant" and in some cases the reaction was "indifferent".

Cultural differences played a role in the emotional reaction ("pleasant", "unpleasant") on two points.

The majority of the Italian (and even more so the Japanese) women thought their spouse's smell was "unpleasant" — as opposed to the German women who found it "pleasant".

The Japanese as a whole found more of the smells "unpleasant" then "pleasant" compared with their German and Italian counterparts.

Explains Dr Hold: "The first difference is probably due to the roles of man and woman in a specific culture. In Germany, more marriages are entered into out of genuine love rather than for social, family or economic reasons. This is not so in Japan and, to some extent, in Italy as well.

"Another element here is the fact that the Japanese are generally more disapproving of smells than Europeans. This has to do with their highly developed cleanliness, their culture and their pronounced drive to suppress any type of body odour."

Of course, the Western civilisation also considers body odour as of- ing. As a result, it is even more than sex. You don't talk about it, cover up.

Dr Hold says this is one of the sons why the role of the sense of in person-to-person relations has ignored.

The role of the nose is rather is- spicuous. Unlike visual and acou- signals such as facial expressions, res and manner and tone of sp- which are consciously perceived and in- terpreted, odours affect our em- directly, bypassing thought process.

"It is for this reason that there is rely an association between lang- and smell. We find it very diffic- describe smells although we emoti- ly instantly react and inte- them," says Dr Schleidt.

This "pre-language level" of perception became evident in the s- of smell tests where the emotional sification of "pleasant", "unplea- and "indifferent" was more clearly ded according to sex than the lang- oriented classification into make m- male.

The findings of the two research show beyond doubt that we can our fellow man and differentiate ween persons on the basis of smell, responding emotionally.

Remarkably, man tries to cover personal and sex-related smell with sorts of artificial odours in the for- toiletries.

Man thus follows the general towards conformism that Professor nāus Eibl-Eibesfeldt, the head of Ethology Centre, describes as sym- matic of our civilised mass society.

Somewhat exaggerated: The ma- of personal smells does the same nose as the uniform, unisex jeans does to the eye.

Walter F

(Der Tagesspiegel, 11 Septemb

Death waits

Continued from page 11

his strong shoulder, which causes him to act confused, rather unwilling to be pushed like this, and finally to steal out of the house. But there seems to be no end to his suffering, for Sabine keeps on pestering him.

There is a shot of Sabine walking down a boulevard in Paris approaching a telephone box and the audience already knows who is to be called up; the reluctant husband-to-be.

Yet again Rohmer creates the laughter born of the audience's foreknowledge. We then see trains rushing in one or another direction, optically cutting short Sabine's hectic attempts to reach her goal.

Sabine is a young lady with some obvious good points, which keeps the film in balance and prevents unappropriate feelings of pleasure at her misfortune or of pity.

Le Beau Mariage could also be called a film about the state of affairs, as the fact that this material is enough for a comedy shows that not all that much has changed between men and women.

It was one of the climaxes at Venice.

Michael Schwarze

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 September 1982)

Changes urged in methods of psychiatry

Psychiatry in Germany has not improved despite the fact that plans for improvement had been drawn up, says a Munich doctor.

Jochen Stork, head of a psychiatric clinic at Munich's technical university, said what improvements had been made were mostly due to private efforts.

Stork told a meeting that none of the improvements put forward in a major report seven years ago had been carried out.

Despite various blueprints for the reorientation and structural improvement of psychiatric care, Germany has fallen even further behind other countries.

Stork called for a community-oriented outpatient and semi-outpatient type of child and youth psychiatry which has gained in importance over inpatient care.

Semi-outpatient facilities were a necessary alternative to the traditional psychiatric hospital and the number of beds should be reduced.

He conceded that inpatient facilities are still necessary for severe cases, though they should be restructured.

This demand results from Stork's experience since the opening of his clinic five years ago.

It practises a community-oriented approach to child and youth psychiatry that is modelled on the Centre Alfred Binet in Paris where Stork worked for five years.

One of the main principles of this new psychiatry is that the patient must not be viewed as an isolated entity but as part of his environment.

The view that the hospitalisation of children and juveniles suffering from psychiatric disorders offsets the negative effects of the family is now regarded as obsolete.

Apart from extreme cases, Stork said, "a bad family is still better than no family at all."

Particularly the small child with all its conflicting emotions has its roots in the family and any hospitalisation is traumatic.

The community-oriented approach goes hand-in-hand with the change in the psychotherapeutic process whose emphasis rests on the patient's individual and subjective experience.

The decisive thing here is for the psychiatrist to deal with the patient on a person-to-person basis. He must not only listen to illogicalities but must in fact absorb them, thus helping the patient to bring order into his chaos.

Stork warned of the danger of permitting psychiatry to be governed by ideology on psychotherapeutic methods and criticised the confusingly large number of therapeutic approaches.

He termed psychoanalysis, on which his concept rests, a common point of reference in the terminological confusion of today.

The reason is that after a development extending over more than 80 years psychoanalysis has absorbed a wide riety of therapy concepts and is app- ble for slight disorders and psychos-

What matters in community-ori- child and youth psychiatry is a co- te and close cooperation with all in- stitutions that have anything to do children.

This not only help to detect mild chiatric cases in good time but m- the institutions themselves more minded towards children with psy- tric problems. Experience shows most children with such problems reported to the hospital by the scho-

The all-important initial contact the parents is made by an educa- social worker who, together with psychiatrists, a psychologist and sev- therapeutic staff members, makes the unit.

The parents play a paramount ro- the subsequent psychoanalysis, Swiss psychoanalyst Rosemarie B- Glanz told the meetings.

The experience of the past five shows the need for the earliest pos- detection and treatment of chi- with psychiatric disorders.

Very frequently seemingly n- children show severe psychiatric ders once they are examined.

But too much psychiatric and chotherapeutic activism creates the pression in the family that the thera- want to interfere in its most inti- sphere and make it adapt to no- ideals. This can become a major blem in preventive efforts by psychi-

Heidrun Graup

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 September

HEALTH

The strange threat of low blood pressure

Low blood pressure (hypotonia) is not generally considered an illness, like high blood pressure. In some cases it prolongs life expectancy.

Yet low blood pressure can cause a wide range of disorders. It accounts for to 15 per cent of a general practitioner's patients.

There is a big difference between the importance of hypotonia itself and the numbers of disorders it causes. But experts don't quite know how hypotonia should be classified.

This has prompted the medical journal *Medizinische Wochenschrift* (Munich) to devote a complete supplement to the subject.

This was followed up by a series of lectures at the recent medical congress Karlsruhe.

It was not until last year that an analysis by W. Boschke of the Institute for Health and Systems Research, Kiel, shed light on the socio-economic significance of hypotonia.

The results of the study came as a surprise even to insiders. Because public cash is short, especially in the health sector, the study raises the question as to whether the cost of treating a condition that is largely seen as harmless are disproportionate.

The study shows that in 1979 alone some 270,000 Germans were forced into early retirement as the result of hypotonia.

Low blood pressure equalled gastritis as a reason for doctors to certify a patient unfit for work.

Hypotonia led to the hospitalisation of as many patients as did diabetes or ankle fractures.

More than twice as many stays in spas were prescribed for hyptonia sufferers as for those suffering from cirrhosis of the liver.

It obvious that low blood pressure accounts for a high proprtion of health costs.

The question, is: is the cost justified, in view of the fact that the low blood pressure syndrome does not even have a name as yet?

The diagnostic uncertainties are highlighted by the many terms (probably more than 10) that are used in describing the syndrome. The terminology ranges from "hypotonic circulation disorder" via "orthostatic dysregulation" to the "German disease".

The diagnostic problems are not least due to the fact that it is impossible in individual cases to establish whether hypotonia has caused a disorder or whether it is the only recognisable and measurable thing to go by.

It is also frequently impossible to say whether hypotonia involves health risks and if so, which.

There are no generally accepted criteria that would permit a clear hypotonia diagnosis, making it possible to differentiate between various types of the disorder.

The only point of general agreement is that measuring the blood pressure of a sitting patient is not enough for a clear diagnosis.

Since the role hypotonia plays in various specialised fields of medicine differs widely it is not only necessary to arrive at a reliable diagnosis but also to evolve more efficient therapies for the root of the disorder.

Most low blood pressure sufferers see a general pracitioner first. But the decision on treatment frequently rests with a gynaecologist because 30 per cent of hypotonia patients are pregnant women. Of these, 0.3 per cent are risk cases because low blood pressure endangers the oxygen supply to the foetus.

Another specialised field of medicine that frequently deals with low blood pressure is neurology.

Research by M. Mitchenson, an Englishman, shows that hypotonia can lead to symptoms resembling a stroke more frequently than has generally been assumed.

There is also a relatively high incidence of low blood pressure in children — something that has been overlooked up to now.

Ignoring hypotonia in children can trigger a sequence of misunderstandings that can have a great bearing on the development of a child's personality, says Professor Bodo-Knut Jüngst of Mainz. It also plays a role in psychosomatic diseases.

Although doctors still do not know which is cause and which is effect, they have observed that low blood pressure and psycho-vegetative disorders up to and including depression frequently go hand in hand.

It is also possible that low blood pressure can cause cardiovascular disorders and psychological instability, says Professor Friedrich Husmann of Bamberg.

Hypotonia is thus a many-layered problem. What matters now is to learn to differentiate between high-risk and no-risk forms of the disorder.

The medical profession will not only have to improve its diagnosis of hypotonia in individual cases but will also have to deal with the disorder in economic terms.

What matters, is to gain more awareness of the significance of the problem on the one hand and, on the other, to intensify research work leading to better diagnostic methods and improve treatment.

Angela Heck

(Die Welt, 4 September 1982)

Limited food additives 'not harmful'

Food additives are harmless if they are kept within the regulated limits, says a statement issued by food experts.

The advisory committee of the federation for food legislation and food research said people should not let alarms put them off their food.

Residues of insecticides and pollutants in food are so small that health fears are not justified.

They called on politicians, the Food and Drug Administration, the media, consumer organisations and business associations to adopt a level-headed attitude on the food issue.

The researchers do not deny the risk inherent in certain foods. But they stress that these risks have always existed without being known. Today, we are aware of them and can therefore prevent them thanks to new methods of chemical analysis and toxicological research.

The committee recommends a varied and balanced diet, which is not difficult because of the wide range of foodstuffs.

Balanced food prevents dietary disorders and illness while a wrong diet can cause sickness.

The committee stresses that its statement was issued with full awareness of responsibility to the public.

The document was signed by each of the members based on individual practical experience and day-to-day scientific work on diet, food technology, food research and food analysis.

At the beginning of the century many people were unable to adequately feed themselves and to have a varied diet.

Improvements have helped bring about a longer life expectancy by eliminating food-related health hazards such as lead poisoning, trichinosis and intestinal infections in infants.

Today's scientific achievements, food technology, strict food laws, state controls and — not least — the care by food manufacturers and dealers have ensured a high degree of safety and quality.

The researchers admit that there are violations. But it is as impossible to prevent crimes in the food sector as in any other walk of life.

Today's industrial production methods for canned and deep-frozen foods ensure the least possible loss of vitamins — much more so than a housewife could achieve.

High temperature and very short heating is beyond household facilities. This method ensures the least possible loss of nutrients, improves the durability of sensitive foodstuffs and provides protection against microbiological hazards such as salmonella and aflatoxins.

The committee stresses the need for additives to ensure quality and shelf-life. They make it possible to transport food over long distances without it spoiling.

Many additives are natural food substances and all are subject to strict controls.

The committee says it is wrong and misleading to speak of them as "chemistry in the cooking pot."

Without these additives it would be impossible to supply varied, tasty and reliable food.

Without additives — especially preservatives — there would be a health risk.

Commenting on heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and mercury, the statement says tht they are naturally part of all organisms.

Additional heavy metals find their way into food through pollution.

But these elements in today's food are not such as to give rise to concern. They have not reached danger levels.

Pesticides and chemical fertilisers are here to stay, the statement says. But they must be controlled.

The public must understand that nutritives taken out of the soil by plant life must be replaced. Anybody who wanted to farm without pesticides and artificial fertilisers would have to put up with reduced yields and food shortages.

Comparative analyses show that there is no difference in nutritional value and health between conventional and health food.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 September 1982)

Drive against cancer

The German Cancer Fund has launched an information drive for schoolchildren: 10,000 copies of a 97-page information booklet have been issued to teachers.

"Despite growing health consciousness, systematic health education at school is still neglected in this country," writes Cancer Fund Chairman Dr Mildred Scheel in her introduction.

She stresses that it is teachers who have always emphasised that personal habits such as smoking, prejudices, and fears of specific diseases along with basic attitudes towards one's own health are acquired at school.

The booklet aims at making children aware of health.

If the drive achieves its objective, Dr Scheel hopes, the attitude towards cancer prevention and early diagnosis will become less inhibited and checkups will be taken for granted.

The booklet is intended as a practical information source for teachers and is meant to help their instruction on the subject.

The whole programme, seven lessons, can be made part of the regular curriculum.

One of the aims is to prevent cigarette smoking. Two chapters are devoted to cigarette smoking and lung cancer.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 7 September 1982)

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appointment at the American consulate. But they are turned down because the father fails to obtain a health certificate on account of alleged hidden tuberculosis.

The film almost exclusively centres on the family itself. The camera (Jürgen Grundmann) moves to and fro between what the boy sees and what his reactions are.

Laughter and being serious, curiosity and speechlessness.

The camera is the inconspicuous, silent observer, which never leaves the immediate surroundings of Benny and his parents, thus moulding the audience's experience with the experiences of these three characters.

We do not witness spectacular acts of violence against the Jews in this film (a stone is thrown once against a window).

The activities of the Nazis, who are busy issuing new decrees against the Jews, are left out, and are reflected in the changes which quietly and unrelentingly creep into Jewish everyday life in the form of fear and uncertainty.

The isolation from the rest of the (normal) world becomes greater and greater and is soon to be replaced by narrow, locked rooms.

In an effort to flee form the general quarrelling in the guest-house and the sudden rows between his parents.

Benny seeks refuge in the world of the cinema, but is does not take long before the pictures shown here are very similar to those 'outside'.

The production as a whole although not forcing itself upon the audience contains very impressive scenes, which are void of emotiveness, sentimentality and melancholy, full of warmth, indeed cheerfulness.

The good thing about this film is that the characters are not used to describe a certain period in time, but this period serves to illustrate people.

Angelika Kaps

(Der Tagesspiegel, 10 September 1982)

■ MODERN LIVING

Bags of money from all over the world

Albert Pick, 60, of Munich has the world's largest collection of bank notes. After 52 years of patient collecting, he now has 270,000 notes from all over the world.

Pick's hobby is now his profession. In 1964, he sold his collection to Bayerische Hypotheken- und Wechselbank in Munich, who appointed him curator of his own collection.

He not only has an international reputation as an expert on paper money; he is also Germany's only acknowledged authority in this field.

He has written many books, publishes catalogues and has been awarded many decorations.

He started collecting when he was eight. But unlike his classmates, he spurned the cigarette cards that were the rage of the day and concentrated on inflation money.

He remained faithful to his hobby, putting every penny he could spare into his collection — and there was not much to spare at the end of the war and in the immediate post-war years.

Pick's determination to build up as comprehensive collection as possible was so strong that he asked his father to forward what money catalogues were still available to the Russian front so that he would not miss a single opportunity.

The bank that bought his collection was founded in 1835 for the sole purpose of issuing paper money and remained so until the establishment of the Reichsbank in 1875. Its vaults not only hold all bank notes currently in circulation world-wide but a vast collection of antique and other rare money.

This includes the world's oldest bank note, issued in China in the 14th century during the Ming dynasty.

In those days, the penalty for forgers was rather drastic: "Anybody producing or circulating forged notes is to be beheaded. And anybody who reports or arrests a forger is to be given a reward of 250 taels of silver plus the entire property of the forger." The law did not state whether this was to include the dud money!

There are plenty of forgeries in Pick's collection.

Napoleon, for instance, issued forged rouble notes during the 1807 Franco-Russian war. The only way forgery could be distinguished was by the signature: the real roubles carried a hand-written signature while the signature in the forgeries was printed.

Pick knows the history of many of his notes. For instance: one-rouble notes bearing the signature "Brut" were regarded as good luck talismans until 1917 because cashier Brut killed himself.

After the Declaration of Independence in 1776 the United States replaced the "colonial bills" of the 13 founder states by "continental bills". It was Benjamin Franklin who then coined the phrase "not worth a continental" which is still applied to worthless junk.

Like all French colonies in North America, Louisiana's money was bilingual. The 10-dollar note of 1860 bore the word *dix* (French for ten). Hence the nickname "Dixieland".

But the most curious items of the collection are the emergency notes. These were printed on old transport tickets, postal checking account forms, sheets of stamps, lottery tickets, luncheon vouchers and commercial shares.

Pössneck in Thuringia in 1923 had leather money that could be used for shoe soles and heels.

The newest item in Pick's collection of emergency money is a sweet. Italian shopkeepers used it a few years ago in lieu of small change, which was in short supply.

Andrea Elser

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 4 September 1982)

Restaurateur swops ladle for a Treasure Island shovel

Herbert Echtler, who owns a roadside restaurant in Bavaria, has announced his intention to find a treasure trove in the Seychelles, an Indian Ocean island group.

The alleged treasure, worth about $200m, is supposed to have been hidden in the 18th century on Mahé, the main island of the group of 89 islands some 2,000 kilometres east of Mombasa, Kenya.

Echtler's treasure hunting application is now under review by France Albert Réné's government in Seychelles.

The Bavarian treasure hunter says he has the information that will enable him to salvage the legendary *La Buse* treasure of the French pirate Oliver le Vasseur.

The Seychelles authorities made it clear in the past that they had no doubt that the treasure exists. Observers are confident that Echtler's application will be approved.

Together with an Englishman by the name of Taylor, le Vasseur in 1721 captured the Portuguese vessel *La Vierge du Cap* carrying diamonds and other costly cargo from the Far East.

Le Vasseur was subsequently captured and publicly hanged on the French island of Réunion in the Indian Ocean.

As the noose was put around his neck, he threw a piece of paper to the spectators, saying that it showed where his treasures were and that anyone who could decipher it was welcome to them.

Nobody knows who got the paper and who now has it. But treasure hunters have been scouring the Seychelles coasts for more than 200 years.

The Seychelles, on the sailing route between Africa and the Far East, was a favourite hideout for pirates in the 18th century.

dpa

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 8 September 1982)

Library rejects offer from the volunteer colonel

A retired army officer has put the cat among the pigeons by offering to work several hours a week without pay in a branch of the city library. He wants to prevent even more libraries from closing due to the city's shortage of cash.

Lieutenant Colonel Ernst Noever, 65: "I could well imagine that I'm not the only pensioner who is prepared to work on an honorary basis."

But Cologne personnel officer Lutz Tempel not happy about the offer.

"I take my hat off to all this sense of civic duty, but any voluntary work on behalf of the city causes insoluble problems."

Despite the financial strain and the need to reduce city services, Tempel sees no way in which he could possibly accept such volunteer work.

Several other pensioners have contacted Colonel Noever. All want to help.

This comes as no surprise to Sigurd Lohmann who heads a pensioner's organisation in Cologne.

"We know that there are a great many pensioners who would still like to do something useful," says Lohmann.

Dr Werner Boecker of the Standing Conference of Town Councils has come up with a number of reasons why such civic minded pensioners cannot be used in city administrations.

"Suppose Colonel Noever falls off one of the library ladders? Since the cities are liable for the actions of their staff, we would have to carry not only accident but third party insurance as well."

He also points to another aspect:

Continued on page 15

Ida, 70, picks pockets with a kiss and hug

Ida, aged 70 and Hamburg's ol[dest] known pickpocket, has just been [sen]tenced to two-years in prison.

She was charged with at least 19 [of]fences between 12 February 1980 [and] 23 June 1982.

Her method never varied. She [ac]costed elderly men, lured them [into] house corridors and stairwells [where] she plied them with kisses and pi[cked] their pockets.

Ida told the court that stealing [had be]come easy to her because she al[ways] wanted to go straight and lead a res[pec]table life.

It just never worked. She had sta[rted] stealing when very young. Her [criminal] record started in 1930 w[hen] she was first sentenced to prison.

She has spent most of her life be[hind] bars.

The sentences did not make her [give] up her trade. Instead, the time betw[een] getting out of prison and starting [to] steal again got shorter and shorter.

The very next day after being [re]leased from prison on 11 Febr[uary] 1980, she already had her next vic[tim] inside a house entrance.

The accused made a full confess[ion] in court, blaming everything on her [un]happy youth.

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 9 September [1982])

■ CRIME

New tricks to fight the bank robbery boom

[G]ermany is going through a bank [robbery] boom. Last year the num[ber] of holdups soared by over 50 per [cent].

During the first two quarters of 1982 [the] curve maintained its steep climb.

The Ministry of the Interior has now [issu]ed new regulations for banks and [oth]er savings organisations.

[Ev]en the smallest branch offices, very [ofte]n one-man operations must be [equ]ipped with surveillance cameras.

The trouble is, however, the bank [rob]bers have already learned to disgui[se] themselves, making the photos use[less] for identification.

[I]n an attempt to come to grips with [the] situation security experts from the [Mini]stry of the Interior, the Bundeskri[min]alamt (German Federal CID) and credit institutions (joined together [in] the "Central Credit Committee") discussed new tactics. As the assis[tant] head of the Ministry of the Inte[rior], Kurt Fritz, put it: "We've got to get [back] to being one step ahead of the [gang]sters."

[Ev]ents in 1977 showed just how ef[fecti]ve this proverbial step ahead can be [when] it comes to upsetting the bank [robb]ery business.

[I]n that year the voluntarily accepted [safe]ty measures, which envisaged [bulle]t-proof glass for all counters, were [exp]anded. The leading bank and savings [ban]k organisations recommended that [their] members install surveillance cameras which could then take photos at in[terva]ls of a second in situations of danger.

A few months later almost 90 per cent [of] the banking halls had followed this [reco]mmendation.

[Pot]ential bank robbers now had to [reck]on on seeing their photo in all [news]papers on the day after the holdup. The deterrent effect of the cameras [init]ially surpassed all expectations. Ac[cor]ding to Kurt Fritz 1978 was the [ye]ar of the 'bank ladies', with more [and] more women making use of the pis[tol], making bank raids look like child's [pla]y.

Between 1978 and 1980 the number [of ar]med robberies carried out in credit [insti]tutions fell from 630 to 411. Howe[ver], it didn't take the bank robbers long to develop new strategies to overcome the latest trap.

They had already shown their ability to adjust during the early stages of the bullet-proof cashier booths. Instead of threatening the man behind the counter they took the customers hostage and thus blackmailed the bank staff to hand over the loot.

This time it took them three years to get around the problem of the cameras.

Suddenly, the criminal disguised right up to his parting became a common sight. The photos taken during the holdup often proved useless.

"If a bank robber is masked, the series of photos taken during the crime can only help if they inform us of any characteristic movements the man may have", says Kurt Fritz.

Despite the diminishing value of the photos more and more bank robbers are playing it safe and force the bank staff to hand over the camera's film.

The only chance staff have of preventing this is if the cameras have been secretly built in, which is very rarely the case.

The camera surveillance of banking halls reveals other weaknesses. During a bank robbery in a savings bank in Frankfurt at the end of August, the 18th this year, despite a camera there was no photo: the camera was switched off during the raid.

As in most German banks and savings banks the cameras are only triggered off via contact in critical or suspicious situations. In this specific case this wasn't possible.

Slip ups of this kind could be avoided by using video cameras for permanent observation. These had already been considered during the mid-seventies during discussions between the CID and the leading bank and savings bank organisations on preventative measures.

Hidden video cameras were intended to relay the pictures on to monitors in the nearest police station. However, these plans fell through due to lack of cash.

Video control installations with monitors inside the bank buildings, however, are also beset with problems. In the words of Hans Beilstein, a police spokesman in the state of Hesse: "One camera alone cannot cover all the various corners of the hall. Two cameras would be better."

The German Savings Banks and Giro Association (Bonn) and the Federal Association of German Banks (Cologne) will be trying to influence their members accordingly.

Financial considerations should not put an early end to such plans. In extreme cases it may cost DM6,000 to install one camera.

Hesse police have further suggestions for increasing the effectivity of the cameras in the era of masked robbers.

The security experts suggest watching bank entrances. As Beilstein explains: "This is where most bank robbers take off their masks before attempting to flee, since they cannot wear their disguise outside. In this split second they should be photographed."

Dr Horst Hennemann of the German Savings Banks and Giro Association, also sees weak-points in this approach:

"Criminals always plan these things carefully and take a look around. If they know there is a camera at the main entrance they run off out of the back door."

One of the security recommendations by the Ministry of the Interior is to lower the amounts of money available at any one time (recommended figure for small branches: DM50,000).

According to the banks' leading organisations all credit institutions have taken heed of this advice. The Ministry of the Interior has welcomed this reaction.

Kurt Fritz states: "Ignoring the spectacular individual cases, the average amount of money lost has dropped considerably", from an estimated DM40,000 to DM25,000.

The Ministry's security experts and the banks' leading organisations agree that the only way to successfully combat the new bank robbery boom is to develop new strategies.

One of the new methods being discussed is to introduce safes which only allow a limited amount of money to be withdrawn within a given period (for example, DM5,000 every quarter of an hour).

Customers wishing to withdraw more money must apply for the amount beforehand to avoid a long waiting period. The bank robbers, however, are really faced with a problem, since neither the cashier nor the rest of the bank's staff can influence the timing mechanism. One big initial problem is seen in the fact that to begin with the bank robbers are not likely to believe this 'story' and may become violent.

There is only one way of preventing this. More information must be made public on bank security, which would represent deviating from the secretive course pursued up to now.

Fritz underlines the importance of such a change in approach: "Openness is needed instead of secrecy. These new security devices, which must come sooner or later, must become as well known as the cameras. Only then can we avoid endangering human lives."

Walter Gutermuth

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 23 September 1982)

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[b]y an employer who pays his staff [to] say. In other words, the city admi[nistr]ation would have no right to give instructions to unpaid helpers.

[Ex]isting labour deals make it impos[sible] to employ anybody who is not [pai]d the full rate. And this includes [peo]ple working for free. The only ex[cep]tion applies to those who work less [tha]n 20 hours a week.

In fact, even the branch of the city li[brar]y where Colonel Noever wanted to [volunt]eer was unenthusiastic.

[Lib]rarian Werner Plewe: "For one [thin]g, untrained laymen can never re[plac]e a trained librarian. And, for an[other], we have more staff than we need [sinc]e seven libraries had to shut [dow]n."

But Dr Boecker revealed the real rea[son] behind the decision when he said: "[If] we accepted the offer we would find [ours]elves in trouble with the unions and works councils."

[He] went on to say that nobody could [bla]me them for being afraid that the [city] might try to manage with unpaid [staff] and postpone hiring people until [the] economic situation improves.

Horst Zimmermann

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 10 September 1982)

Emergence of a Mafia-style gangland

Organised crime along Mafia lines have become a feature in Germany over the past ten years.

Mafia was often viewed as an emotive word and the existence of such methods dismissed as exaggeration.

Those dealing with crime have a slightly different opinion. The initial fears of calling a spade a spade have gradually disappeared, a fact pointed out by the Director of the State Crime Office of North-Rhine Westphalia in Düsseldorf, Hans-Werner Hamacher.

Politicians and crime experts no longer dispute the existence of organised crime in Germany, although there is no general agreement on the definition of the concept itself.

Very often more time is spent on such peripheral discussions than on working out effective measures to fight this growth of serious crime.

The situation in the Wuppertal, one of Germany's coal-mining areas, underlines the need for action. The public prosecutor there, Jörn Bachmann, has made a name for himself since 1978 because of his tough line against Italian and Yugoslavian gangs.

During the past two and a half years alone 167 members of organised gangs have been sentenced to a total of 245 years imprisonment in his area.

Three quarters of those sentenced are Italians. The others are Yugoslavs, Turks and Germans, who are increasingly clubbing together with foreigners in crime.

Foreigners often travel to Germany from their native country just to commit an offence.

Bachmann always has about 70 alleged members of strictly organised gangs in detention.

These gangs murder and steal; they get their money from gambling, prostitution, asking for protection money and illegally dealing in labour.

Bachmann sums up the range of crime: "The whole spectrum of serious crime". An ever-increasing number of criminals are specialising in organised economic crime, such as the illegal hiring out of labour.

According to the Minister of Justice in North-Rhine Westphalia, Inge Donnepp, the years after 1977 have experienced a boom.

If the traditional forms of organised crime and its connections with the more refined forms of economic crime are to be combatted, new methods must be employed to fight against the internationally operating gangs.

Both Hamacher and the leading public prosecutor in Wuppertal, Alfred Spieß, demand the centralisation of data on clues and offenders.

This is to be done by using data processing as was done during efforts to track down terrorists. The CID has now passed the planning stages, says Hamacher. It has been generally accepted that information must be concentrated in one place.

How to organise the implementation of such anti-crime measures, whether centrally or decentrally, is still not decided on.

A decision may depend on the circumstances in each case. The ultimate objective ought to be cooperation within the European Community. In their fields Bachmann and Spieß maintain that the limits to what is possible have been reached.

They claim that without more personnel and without comprehensive data relating to the whole of Germany they will not be able to come to terms with the crime phenomenon in the long run.

They are of course implying that gang crime has only become so apparent in Wuppertal as a result of the particular crime-fighting efforts in this area.

If the same methods were employed in other conurbations the real threat posed by organised crime would be unconvered.

dpa

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 September 1982)